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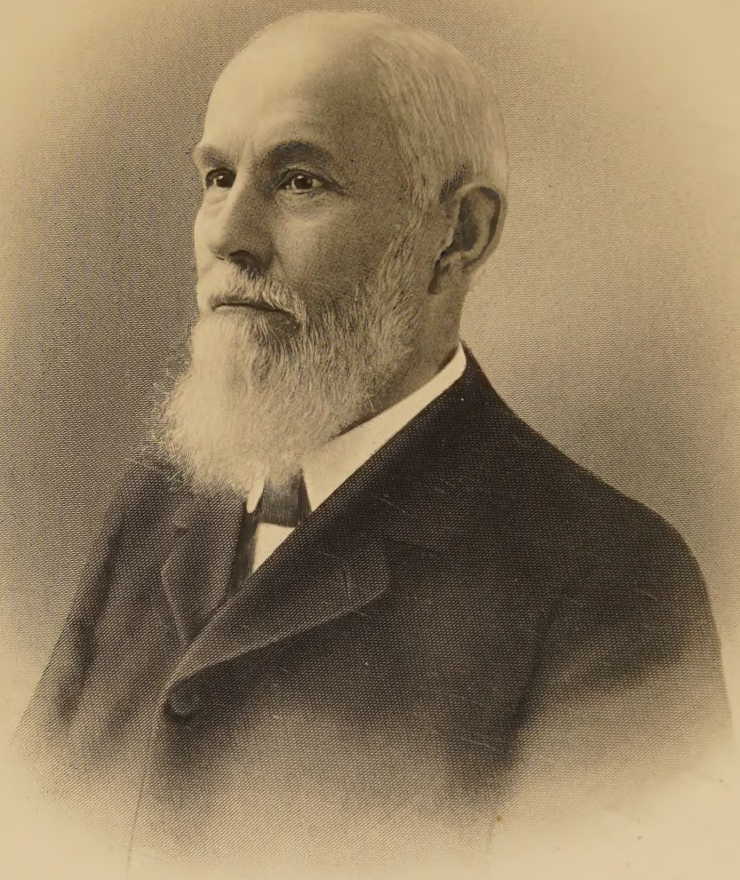

Henry Taylor & Chicago

Jacob F. Burket.

A

CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF

HANCOCK COUNTY

OHIO

ILLUSTRATED

EMBELLISHED WITH PORTRAITS OF MANY WELL KNOWN PEOPLE OF HANCOCK COUNTY
WHO HAVE BEEN OR ARE PROMINENT IN ITS HISTORY
AND DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
1903

PREFACE.

OUT of the depths of his mature wisdom Carlyle wrote, "History is the essence of innumerable biographies." Believing this to be a fact, there is no necessity of advancing any further reason for the compilation of such a work as this, if reliable history is to be the ultimate object.

The section of Ohio embraced by this volume has sustained within its confines men who have been prominent in the history of the State, and even the nation, for a century. The annals teem with the records of strong and noble manhood, and, as Sumner has said, "the true grandeur of nations is in those qualities which constitute the greatness of the individual." The final causes which shape the fortunes of individuals and the destinies of States are often the same. They are usually remote and obscure, and their influence scarcely perceived until manifestly declared by results. That nation is the greatest which produces the greatest and most manly men and faithful women; and the intrinsic safety of a community depends not so much upon methods as upon that normal development from the deep resources of which proceeds all that is precious and permanent in life. But such a result may not consciously be contemplated by the actors in the great social drama. Pursuing each his personal good by exalted means, they work out as a logical result.

The elements of success in life consist in both innate capacity and determination to excel. Where either is wanting, failure is almost certain in the outcome. The study of a successful life, therefore, serves both as a source of information and as a stimulus and encouragement to those who have the capacity. As an important lesson in this connection we may appropriately

quote Longfellow, who said: "We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while we judge others by what they have already done." A faithful personal history is an illustration of the truth of this observation.

In this biographical history the editorial staff, as well as the publishers, have fully realized the magnitude of the task. In the collection of the material there has been a constant aim to discriminate carefully in regard to the selection of subjects. Those who have been prominent factors in the public, social and industrial development of the county have been given due recognition as far as it has been possible to secure the requisite data. Names worthy of perpetuation here, it is true, have in several instances been omitted, either on account of the apathy of those concerned or the inability of the compilers to secure the information necessary for a symmetrical sketch; but even more pains have been taken to secure accuracy than were promised in the prospectus. Works of this nature, therefore, are more reliable and complete than are the "standard" histories of a country.

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A CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF

HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO.

JACOB F. BURKET.

The subject of this sketch has been a familiar figure in Ohio for many years, owing to his prominent connection both with the bench and bar of the state. For over thirty years he was an attorney in active practice at Findlay, and since February 9, 1893, has been a member of the state supreme court, at present holding the position of chief justice of that tribunal. His family is of Swiss origin and it seems that the name was originally written Burkhardt. In 1758 the great-grandparents of our subject emigrated from Switzerland to America, accompanied by their son John, who was at that time an infant about four years old. On the voyage across the ocean the father died of a fatal illness, and his widow after arriving in the United States located at Reading, Pennsylvania. John Burkhardt grew to manhood at that place, and at the beginning of the Revolutionary war became a member of Von Heer's Cavalry, which was organized under a special act of the Continental congress for the purpose of acting as a body guard to Washington. He participated with his command in its subsequent service, and with them shared the horrors of the never to be forgotten winter at Valley Forge. He remained with the army until the surrender of Cornwallis, after which he returned to his home at Reading, where he married a Miss Fox and subsequently removed to Ohio. Locating first in Perry county, near the village of Somerset, he removed later with his family to Sandusky county, settling near Hessville, west of Fremont, where his death occurred in February, 1847. John Burket became the father of eighteen children, among the younger of whom was a son named Solomon,

who was born in 1806. He married Mary, daughter of George Brehn, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, took part in the battles of Fort Meigs and Fallen Timbers, and died in Perry county at the age of ninety-three years. Solomon Burket resided in Perry county until 1838, when he removed to Hancock county, where he engaged in farming and followed that occupation until his death, which occurred March 6, 1847. He had a family of ten children, among whom was included the subject of this sketch.

Jacob F. Burket was born on a farm in Perry county, three miles south of the village of Somerset, March 25, 1837, and when eighteen months old was brought to Hancock county by his parents, who located in Union township. He passed the earlier years of his life in the uneventful routine of farm work, in the meantime acquiring a fairly good education in the schools of the district and at Findlay. After finishing at this place, he completed his educated at the Seneca County Academy, then the best school in northwestern Ohio. When he had reached the eighteenth year of his age he became an instructor and taught his first term of school during the summer of 1855, in Blanchard township. The subsequent seven years were occupied in teaching and attending school, with a view to entering the legal profession, of which he became a member by admission to the bar in 1861. In the fall of 1861 he located at Ottawa, Putnam county, but in April, 1862, returned to Findlay, where he continued the practice of law with marked success until 1893. During this period of more than thirty years Mr. Burket steadily rose in his profession and made a reputation as being one of the best lawyers of the Findlay bar. In 1892 he was nominated by the Republican party as candidate for judge of the supreme court of Ohio, was elected in the ensuing fall and took his seat February 9, 1893. In 1897 he was re-elected to this position for another term of six years and is now chief justice of the court. While throughout his life Judge Burket has always been a consistent and earnest Republican in politics, he has never taken an active part in the campaigns. In 1880, however, he was an elector on the Garfield and Arthur ticket and still retains the ticket cast for those candidates in the electoral college. In 1887 he assisted in organizing the American National Bank of Findlay, of which he was elected president.

Judge Burket was married near Adrian, Michigan, to Miss Pamy D. Walters, daughter of John and Eliza (Lowrey Walters, and to this union have been born six children, whose names are Harlan F., Charles O., William J., John F., Reginald and Lillie B., the latter being now the wife of Louis W. Eoff. Mrs. Burket died June 6, 1900. Judge Burket is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was grand master of the Ohio order in 1882 and 1883. He and his sons, Harlan F. and John F., are members of the society

MRS. JACOB F. BURKET

of the Sons of the American Revolution. He and his son, Harlan F., are members of the Ohio State Bar Association, also of the American Bar Association, and usually attend the meetings of those organizations.

LUTHER C. KELLY.

The family of this name, so long and favorably known in Hancock county, had its Ohio origin in Pickaway county from emigrants who came west at what the pioneers called "an early day." We first hear of Joseph Kelly, who was born in Pickaway county, about the beginning of the last century, and he was married in Fairfield county to Sarah Shaw, an incomer from Pennsylvania. After marriage this couple located in Pickaway county, where they reared five children, and of these four came to Hancock county for residence at different times. Among the latter was George J. Kelly, whose birth occurred in Pickaway county, Ohio, in January, 1823, and who remained in his native locality until about thirty years old. In April, 1842, he married Caroline Fellers, and eleven years later left Pickaway to seek a home in Hancock county. He located on eighty acres of land in Union township, which embraced the present site of Rawson, and shortly after his arrival in 1852 this village was laid out. This made a demand for lots, and a considerable portion of George J. Kelly's purchase was thus disposed of. Subsequently he acquired additional land until his total holdings amount to two hundred and eighty acres, besides several houses and lots in Rawson. He suffered a loss of over seven thousand dollars by a destructive fire which swept over Rawson in 1887 and practically wiped the village from the map. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. George J. Kelly the six living are: Mrs. Jane Benedict, Luther C., John A., Mrs. Olive M. Zugschwert, Mrs. Mary A. Allion and Mrs. Ines A. Woods, Chester D., the deceased son, whose death occurred in 1894, was a lawyer of promise who resided at Kenton, where he served as prosecuting attorney for two terms. In addition to his own children Mr. Kelly reared and educated Scott H. Kelly, his nephew, who is now practicing law at Toledo, Ohio. Mrs. Caroline Kelly passed away in 1898, and all accounts agree in representing her as a most affectionate wife and devoted mother.

Luther C. Kelly, eldest of his father's sons, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 10, 1847, and was consequently four years old when his parents came to this county. He was reared at Rawson, and after attending the common schools there went to Findlay for the purpose of fitting himself as a teacher by a course in the high school at that place. After finishing the education prescribed for him he taught school awhile in Jackson township, but

soon abandoned this occupation to engage in mercantile pursuits. Securing a clerkship in an establishment at Ada, he remained there a year and then returned to Rawson to go into business with J. C. Benham. This partnership, after lasting a year or so, was dissolved with mutual consent and Mr. Kelly determined to make agriculture a permanent employment. With this in view he made his first real estate investment in 1875, consisting of forty acres of land in Union township, which he increased in 1880 by an addition of twenty-one acres, and by subsequent deed from his father his total holdings were brought up to an even one hundred acres. On this place he has since resided, cultivating his fertile fields after modern methods, raising good stock and otherwise leading the life of a well-to-do Ohio farmer. Aside from his own business his public service has consisted of two terms as township trustee and several terms as member of the school board, in whose educational work he has taken an especial interest.

In 1868 Mr. Kelly was married to Sarah, daughter of W. C. and Mary A. Needles, by whom he had one child, Sarah Eva, now Mrs. M. A. Runkle. In 1883 he contracted a second marriage with Magdalena M., daughter of David and Julia A. Stallsmith, and the children by this union are Jasper F., who married Bessie Reed, of Ottumwa, Iowa; Florence M., now Mrs. A. B. DeWese, Homer C., Julia A., Lucia E. and Zoda J. Mrs. Kelly, who is a native of Portage county, was a successful teacher in her earlier life and enjoyed a high reputation in the educational circles of Portage, Marion and Hancock counties. The Kellys were formerly members of the Methodist Protestant church, but that establishment not being regularly supplied with pastors the family joined the old Methodist church, in whose work they are actively interested. Mr. Kelly and his father have at different times held nearly every official position in the church except that of minister. Owing to their success in business, their exemplary lives and their value as citizens this family has long occupied a position of influence in the locality around Rawson.

GEORGE CARROTHERS.

As a veteran of the Civil war, farmer and later a real estate dealer of enterprise and prominence, the subject of this sketch has made so creditable a record as to enjoy high standing in Findlay. He comes of Scotch-Irish stock and at every crisis of his life has displayed the courage and persistence characteristic of that historic race. His grandfather, John Carrothers, was born in Scotland, went from there to the North of Ireland and about the year 1813 crossed the Atlantic to the United States, where he died when near his

Lucina M. Carrothers

George Carruthers

forty-fifth year. John Carrothers, son of the last mentioned, was born in North Ireland in 1807 and came to America with his parents in childhood, the vessel in which they sailed being wrecked and causing a loss of all the family belongings. They made their way to Guernsey county, Ohio, where the father of our subject grew up and later made his way to Crawford county, where he died in 1883. In 1833 he was married to Elizabeth Laird, by whom he had eight children. John W., the eldest of these, was a non-commissioned officer in the First Regiment of Nebraska Volunteer Infantry and died some time after the war. Margaret E. and Robert are deceased; George was the fourth child, and James B., the next in order of birth, was a private in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, from which he received an honorable discharge in 1863 for disability. William is dead and Dr. Moses M. served with the troops called out in 1864 to meet Morgan's raid. Mary J., the youngest child, has departed this life, as has also the mother, whose death occurred in 1891. George Carrothers was born in 1839 while his parents were living on their farm in Crawford county, Ohio, and he remained in that neighborhood until seventeen years of age. Having earned money enough to pay his own way, he entered Oberlin College and there obtained most of his literary education. In June, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, Seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served as a private for three months and then veteranized in the same command for the three years' service. He took part with his regiment in the battles at Cross Lane, West Virginia, the first engagement at Winchester and the bloody struggle at Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862. He was so badly wounded in the last mentioned battle as to necessitate his transference to a hospital, the one selected being Davids Island, New York. After confinement there until May, 1863, he was honorably discharged from the service for serious disability and returned to his home in Crawford county, Ohio. For three years he was incapacitated for labor, but in 1867 engaged in the fire insurance business, which constituted his employment until 1869. On March 9 of that year he was married in Richland county, Ohio, to Lucina M., daughter of Rev. Philo and Clarinda (Rogers) Blackman, by whom he has had five children: Clara E.; Minnie M., wife of George B. Landis; Lulu D., wife of R. B. Myers; Georgia M., and James G. The family of Mrs. Carrothers is of ancient origin and many of its members have made creditable records both in civic and military life. Rev. Adam Blackman, the founder of the family in America, was born in England in 1598 and came to this country as far back as 1639. He settled in Stratford, Connecticut, where he organized the first Congregational church, of which he was pastor for twenty-five years, and

died there in 1665. John Blackman, one of his descendants, became the father of Ebenezer Blackman, the great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Carrothers. Her great-grandfather was Enoch Blackman, who served at different times in the Revolutionary army, his last enlistment being August 1, 1780, and his discharge December 9, in the same year. Rev. Philo Blackman, father of Mrs. Carrothers, served as a private in the Fifteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and died in 1877. The mother of Mrs. Carrothers was born at Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, and died at Columbus Grove, Ohio, when eighty-one years of age.

After his marriage, Mr. Carrothers located on a farm in Crawford county, which he cultivated until 1882, when he came to Findlay, where he has since made his home. He engaged in the real estate business, which by good judgment and energy he has made quite remunerative. From 1887 until the fall of 1902 he was extensively engaged in the oil and gas business. He was one of the first men to engage in these industries in this district and in the main was successful. He has been a director of the American National Bank of Findlay ever since its founding. He increased the corporate limits of Findlay by an addition called after his name, containing eighty-four lots, and has erected forty houses on this land. He has been an active figure in the business affairs and industrial development of Findlay and served one term as gas trustee of the city. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, Republican in politics and belongs to Henry Lincoln Post, No. 343, Grand Army of the Republic, at Oberlin, Ohio.

GEORGE M. STOKER.

With the industrial interests of McComb this gentleman is closely associated, being a member of the firm of Stoker Brothers, owners of the planing mill. He is a young man of enterprise and business capability and in his undertakings is meeting with desirable and well merited success.

Mr. Stoker is a native of Hancock county, his birth having occurred in Allen township, upon his father's farm, in the year 1866. He is a son of T. A. Stoker, a well known agriculturist of this community. He remained upon the old homestead until fourteen years of age, during which time he pursued his education in the public schools of the neighborhood, and through the summer months and in the periods of vacation he worked in field and meadow, assisting in the cultivation of the farm, but believing that another pursuit would prove more congenial, when fourteen years of age he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed continuously until 1897. He became a

proficient workman and evidences of his skill are seen in many substantial buildings of the county. In 1897 he joined his brother in the establishment of a planing mill business in McComb, and in the new enterprise they prospered, their business assuming large and profitable proportions. The Stoker Brothers are now manufacturing the Little Star grain separator for the company of which they are now members, and of which company George M. Stoker is the manager.

In the year 1888 Mr. Stoker was united in marriage to Miss Lily Stout; and they have one son, Fred. Mr. Stoker is a prominent Odd Fellow, belonging to both the lodge and the encampment, and in the former he has filled all of the chairs. He is now serving as treasurer of the town, being elected on the Republican ticket by a majority of ninety-five, although the usual majority is about thirty,—the increased vote indicating his personal popularity and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow townsmen, who recognize his capability and his loyalty in citizenship.

WILLIAM H. PEPPLE.

The carpenter, always one of the most important characters in any community, was especially so before the custom of using stone and metals came so much in vogue. In fact during the pioneer period the carpenter was indispensable—there could be no industrial growth without him. One of the oldest, it is also one of the most useful of all the mechanical callings, and usually this trade is regarded in rural neighborhoods as the very embodiment of industry and good citizenship. Mr. Pepple, whose memoir it is now a pleasant duty to set before the readers of this volume, is a typical mechanic of the kind above alluded to. He has been following carpentering in Jackson township for nearly thirty years, and during that time has done a large amount of work in the line of his trade. In fact monuments to his skill are scattered around abundantly in the shape of scores of barns, all of which owe their erection to Mr. Pepple, and it is only necessary to examine them cursorily to find that they were put up by a first-class workman.

William H. Pepple was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1849, but only three years of his life were passed in the place of his nativity. In 1852 his parents, Jesse and Mary (Tipple) Pepple, removed to Hancock county, located on a farm in Jackson township and lived there until 1870. In that year they went to Michigan and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, which they occupied and cultivated until both were claimed by death. William H. Pepple remained with his parents in Michigan until 1875,

meantime beginning to learn his trade as carpenter and completed his apprenticeship after returning to Hancock county. He gradually developed into a mechanic of the best class, and as he got plenty of business to do was rewarded with a fair measure of this world's goods as proof of his industry and saving disposition. At the present time one may count in Jackson and surrounding townships one hundred and eighty-two barns, all of which were constructed by Mr. Pepple, to say nothing of many minor jobs turned out by him at different times. While doing well for himself he has done well for his community, of which he has long been considered a leading carpenter.

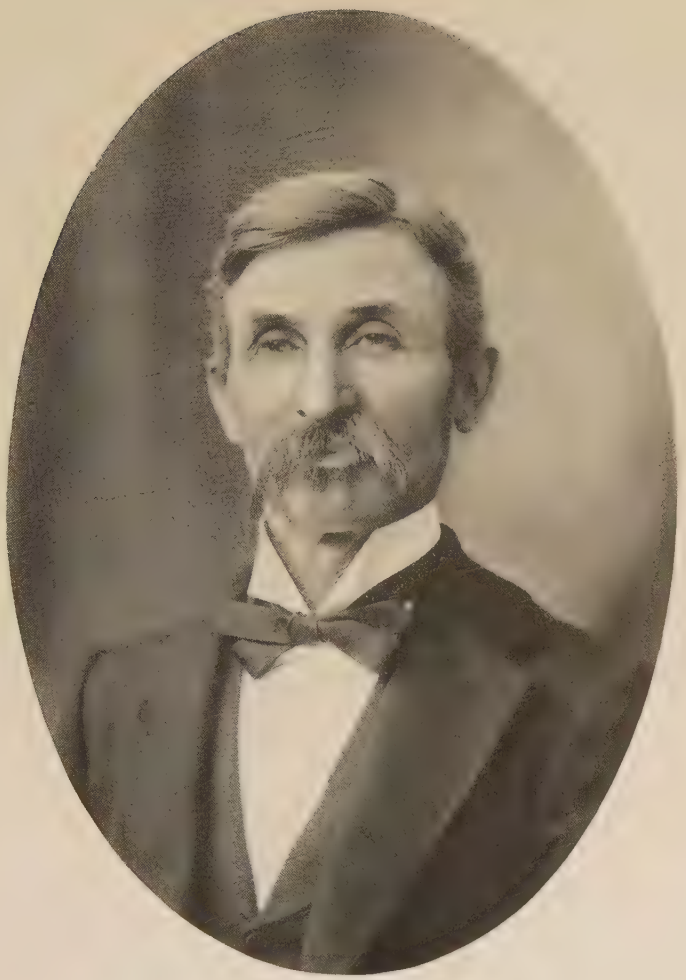
In 1871 Mr. Pepple was united in marriage with Miss Mary J., daughter of James and Elizabeth Jacobs of Marion township, and they have had six children, Martha, Mary, Jesse, Gertrude, Flora and James. At the present time Mr. Pepple owns and resides upon a farm of fifty acres, which makes a comfortable home for himself and family and a pleasant visiting place for his many friends.

LEWIS S. DUKES.

Throughout a long period Lewis S. Dukes has been a prominent figure in the annals of Hancock county, and has aided materially in its progress and development. By a life of uprightness, industry and honorable dealing—a life devoted to the support of whatever is good and true—he has won the genuine regard of a large circle of friends. He traces his ancestry back to the Old Dominion state, for in that commonwealth his father was born, but as early as the '30s he removed from Franklin county, Ohio, to Hancock county, Ohio, where he entered a large tract of land in Union township. As the years passed by he was enabled by his industry and excellent management to add to this tract until he became the owner of about one thousand acres. He was an excellent business man, a successful farmer and a man whose influence for good was felt far and wide in his township. He was twice married, first to a Miss Downing, by whom he had three children, two of whom are now living, George and William. For his second wife he chose Sarah Smith, by whom he had four children, and the two now living are Mrs. Mary Greeen and Lewis S. Nicholas Dukes was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in that faith he passed away in death in 1850, but he is still survived by his widow.

Lewis S. Dukes, whose name introduces this review, was born in Union township, Hancock county, on the farm on which he now resides, on the 6th of January, 1848. When about seven years of age he was taken by his mother to Pennsylvania, where she was a second time married, and in that

MRS. LEWIS S. DUKES



Lewis S. Dukes

commonwealth Lewis S. received his early education. Remaining in the Keystone state until arriving at his majority, he returned then to the township of his nativity, where he has ever since devoted his time and energies to farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale. His landed possessions consist of three hundred and sixty acres of fertile and productive land, eighty acres of which are located in Putnam county, while the remainder lies in Union township, Hancock county. He is also the vice president and a director in the First National Bank of Bluffton, and his business interests are varied and extensive.

For his wife Mr. Dukes chose Miss Mary L., the daughter of John Weltner, their wedding having been celebrated in 1877. Unto this union were born six children, as follows: Elfa E., Grace A., Ruth E., Lulu R. (deceased), Lela M. and Lewis W. The mother of these children was born in Pennsylvania in 1856, and on the 4th of July, 1898, she was summoned to the home beyond, aged forty-two years, nine months and twenty-two days. Having been a resident of the Buckeye state since pioneer days, Mr. Dukes has watched with interest through the passing years its development and progress, and has borne his part in its substantial upbuilding. He is known as one of its reliable and progressive citizens and a man whose example is well worthy of emulation. In politics Mr. Dukes has been a life-long Republican.

ERWIN E. EWING.

Few men are better known in Hancock county than he whose name is given above, as he was long prominently identified with the political management of the county. As deputy sheriff for several years under different principals and later as incumbent of the sheriff's office for two terms, he became acquainted with nearly everybody in the county. Since his retirement from office, his connection with the oil industry has enlarged his acquaintance in business circles, where he enjoys good standing as an enterprising producer. His grandfather, Jacob Ewing, was a Pennsylvanian who settled in Ohio in early manhood, and ended his days in this state. The latter's son and namesake, and father of our subject, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, in 1836. Ten years later he came to Hancock county, engaged in farming and followed that pursuit until the time of his death, which occurred in 1878.

Erwin E. Ewing was born on a farm in Liberty township, Hancock county, July 6, 1862, and spent the first five years of his life at the place of his nativity. About the expiration of that time, his parents removed to a farm in Pleasant township, where he grew up and received his education in the

country schools. After reaching manhood he took some interest in politics, worked for his party during campaigns and thus attracted the attention of the leaders. In 1890 he received the appointment as deputy under Sheriff George L. Cusac, and served acceptably in this position for two years. When Sheriff J. T. Barton took office, he too tendered a deputyship to Mr. Ewing, who accepted and served under that official for one year. His satisfactory service as deputy advertised him so favorably to the rank and file of his party, that he was urged for the main office by his many friends, and in 1896 received the nomination as the Republican candidate for sheriff. At the ensuing election he was triumphant, and served his first term so satisfactorily that in 1898 he was honored by renomination and reelection. After retiring from the shrievalty, Mr. Ewing engaged in the oil producing business, and this is his present occupation. Mr. Ewing is not connected with any of the religious denominations, but shows fondness for the fraternities, enjoying the associations afforded by the various orders. He holds membership in the Knights Templar, Lodge No. 400, Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 75. In his fraternal, social and political relations, Mr. Ewing has cultivated many friendships, which are as grateful to himself as agreeable to those who know and esteem him.

JOSEPH R. KAGY.

To give the causes of success or failure, to describe minutely the character and disposition of a man, is beyond the limits of a work of this nature; all that can be done is to afford a bare outline of the outward facts and allow the world to judge the inner nature of the individual. In the case of the subject of this sketch there can be no doubt as to his peculiar fitness for the duties that have been assigned him in public life nor that he has well deserved the success he has won.

Joseph R. Kagy dates his birth as occurring in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 21st day of December, 1842, and he came five years later to Hancock county with his parents, who located on a farm near Van Buren, where his boyhood days were passed. Here he attended the district schools until he was eighteen and then entered the high school at Findlay, where he prepared himself for the profession of teaching. He began teaching at the age of nineteen and was engaged in this in the winter and in farming in the summer up to 1877, for nine years of this time having charge of the schools at Van Buren.

While residing in Van Buren, Allen township, Mr. Kagy had served as

J. W. Kirkbride

township clerk for two terms, as township assessor two terms, and as township treasurer for about seven years. He was holding this last named office, when in 1877 he was elected auditor of Hancock county. He was reelected in 1880, serving for six years, then for eighteen months was deputy auditor and in 1885 was elected to the city council. Mr. Kagy served as member of the board of county school examiners from 1871 to 1877—and as mayor of the city of Findlay to fill out the unexpired term of W. L. Carlin, who resigned to take his seat in the Ohio state senate. During the period from 1886 to 1889 he engaged in the oil and gas business at Findlay. January, 1890, found him one of the assistant clerks of the senate, and in the spring of that year he became deputy state superintendent of insurance under W. H. Kinder. For two years he carried on a real estate business at Findlay; and from 1895 to 1898 he served as roll clerk in the pension department at Columbus, Ohio, under General A. V. Rice. Since this time Mr. Kagy has successfully conducted a real estate and insurance business. In the fall of 1901 he was candidate on the Democratic ticket for state senator from his district, but failed of election.

On January 21, 1864, at Van Buren, Mr. Kagy became the husband of Catharine M., daughter of John Zarbaugh, and six children were born to them, of whom two died in infancy and one after arriving at maturity. Those living are Nora B.; Mary E., the wife of Dr. E. B. Jacobs, of Chicago; and David D., who is a teacher in the Findlay public schools. Mr. Kagy is an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Elks. He holds a highly respected place in society as a result of his long and successful career as farmer, teacher, public spirited citizen and office holder.

JAMES W. KIRKBRIDE.

James W. Kirkbride, who has been identified with the oil producing districts of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio for many years, was born in Ogdensburg, New York, November 22, 1854, and is a son of Joseph and Sarah (Nugent) Kirkbride. Joseph Kirkbride was born in Northumberland, County of Claire, England, December 6, 1821, and came with his father to America in 1833. The father of our subject has been indirectly associated with production of oil since 1863. Sarah Nugent Kirkbride died in 1860, leaving a family of seven children—four girls and three boys, of which James W. is the second son.

James W. Kirkbride grew to the age of thirteeen years in his native place, and at that time accompanied his father's family on their removal to

Tidioute, Warren county, Pennsylvania, where he continued to attend school for several years. He began his business with his father, whom he assisted in the contracting and building of oil derricks and tanks, following this for about four years, when he removed to Parker, in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. His connection with the oil industry dates from early manhood, his thorough and systematic study of the Butler and Armstrong county fields being of untold value to him in later years. The development of a new field near Bolivar, Alleghany county, New York, called Mr. Kirkbride to that place in 1880, where he remained until the Ohio field was opened in 1886, then moving to his present home at Findlay. In 1887 he embarked in the wholesale and retail lumber business and until 1892 carried this on in connection with his large oil interests, since that time devoting his time to the latter. November 15, 1894, he, in connection with a brother, drilled in the largest oil well that had ever been found in this country and from which the Kirkbride Brothers derived enormous dividends and not a little fame. Mr. Kirkbride is one of the largest independent producers of oil in the country, his producing wells and leases lying in many counties. He also has extensive mining interests at Joplin, Missouri.

Since locating in Findlay he has become interested in various financial enterprises and is one of the directors of the Farmers' National Bank. In politics he is a Republican, but his attention to business has obliged him to refuse many flattering offers in politics, as he has also been obliged to decline many positions of trust in the world of business.

In 1877 Mr. Kirkbride was married in Parker, Pennsylvania, to Amy C. Carson, who is the daughter of George W. Carson, and they have three children, namely: Charles W., Amy G. and Harry C. Mr. Kirkbride is a leading member of the Howard Methodist church, to which he is a liberal contributor. As a business man he is regarded with confidence and respect, while he has a wide circle of friends through the community who esteem him highly.

JOHN N. DOTY.

The gentleman above mentioned, who is at present a leading member of the Findlay bar, has served his fellow men in the triple capacity of teacher, farmer and lawyer. Nor is it at all in the nature of flattery to say that he has made a marked success in each one of these callings, having first been a good teacher, later a good lawyer and still later an agriculturist of the progressive school. His family originated in Maryland and the Ohio branch was founded by Henry Doty, who came to the state early in the nineteenth

John N. Doty.

century, located in Fairfield county and lived there until his death in 1873. Though advanced in years at the outbreak of the Civil war, he was especially enthusiastic in support of the Union cause, and did all he could to uphold the government and assist the soldiers in the field. His son, William Doty, was born in Fairfield county in 1825, removed to Hancock county in his seventeenth year and was identified with its agricultural interests for more than half a century. He was a man of vigorous understanding, noted for the uprightness of his character, and when on September 10, 1900, his long and blameless life came to a close, it was the general remark that Hancock county had lost one of its most esteemed citizens. In 1847 William Doty was married to Mary A., daughter of Levi Sampson, and a member of an old Maryland family, who came with her parents to Hancock county when a child eight years old. After becoming the mother of eight children, of whom seven are living, Mrs. Doty ended her earthly career February 4, 1894, and was followed to the grave by a large concourse who mourned her sincerely as a true "mother in Israel."

John N. Doty, one of the seven surviving children of William and Mary (Sampson) Doty, was born on his father's farm in Jackson township, Hancock county, Ohio, April 19, 1858. Having a natural turn for books and being an apt pupil, he received more benefits from his attendance in the country schools than falls to the lot of the average boy. This is demonstrated by the fact that he had hardly ceased to be a student until he became a teacher, being licensed for that calling at the unusually early age of fifteen years. Boy as he was, however, he succeeded in convincing even his own neighbors that he was able to teach their children something, his first rather daring venture as a pedagogue being made in his native district. This success was followed by others and during his six years' tenure of the home school the young teacher grew in popularity while adding to his own mental culture and training as an educator. This novitiate, as it may be termed, was followed by a year's attendance in the Normal School at Lebanon, after which he entered college at Adrian, Michigan, and finished the literary course in 1881. Not content with the equipment thus gained but anxious to qualify himself thoroughly, Mr. Doty returned some years later to his alma mater at Adrian and added to his store of learning by taking a post graduate course. Shortly after leaving school, he located at Findlay and in 1882 was appointed school examiner of Hancock county, in which position he served two three-year terms with entire acceptability to all concerned. After leaving the office of examiner, Mr. Doty became one of the teachers in the Findlay high school, and continued in that occupation until his admission to the bar in June, 1887. With that

event his career as a teacher ended and that of a lawyer began, with the result that during his practice of about fifteen years Mr. Doty has established himself as one of the leading men of the profession in his native county. But, aside from his business as an attorney, Mr. Doty is largely interested in agriculture, and during the last fifteen years has managed his own farm, which consists of about three hundred acres of excellent land near Findlay.

December 29, 1881, occurred the marriage of John N. Doty and Bertha E., daughter of James and Mary A. (Ewing) Huston, all of Findlay, Ohio. Euclid DeLoss Doty, the only son by this union, is now in his closing high school year. Miss Maud Ethel Doty, the only daughter, died January 6, 1902, at the age of fourteen years and four months. Mr. Doty's religious affiliations are with the Methodist Episcopal church and he contributed one thousand dollars toward the building of the new house of worship of this denomination at Findlay. His fraternal connections are confined to membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he is past chief patriarch of the encampment.

JOEL ECKELS.

A worthy representative of the modern methods of farming prevalent in Hancock county is here presented to the readers of this volume. He lives in Cass township, where he cultivates a farm of ninety acres. He is the grandson of William Eckels, one of the first pioneers of this county, who took up government land in 1833 under President "Hickory" Jackson, the tract being two hundred and forty acres in extent. Eighty acres of this tract had fallen to Charles Eckels, a son of William, which our subject now owns. William Eckels finally sold out his one hundred and sixty acres, and removed to the state of Wisconsin. He was an excellent farmer and an upright man in all his dealings with his neighbors. He held the office of justice of the peace for many years in Hancock county. He was a strong churchman, lent his influence to the establishment of Methodism in the new country, and his home was always open to the itinerant preachers of that denomination, whom he delighted to honor. His death occurred in 1866 and Isabella, his wife, died during the previous year. They had ten children, and of this number one daughter is still living. Her twin brother, Irvin, was a captain in the Civil war and suffered death at the battle of River's Bridge in South Carolina, in the last months of the war. His company was a part of the Thirty-second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

Charles Eckels was the son of the original pioneer and the father of Joel.

His birth occurred in Pennsylvania in 1810 and came to Hancock county with his parents in 1833. He was a citizen of good repute, and like his father before him a pillar in the Methodist Episcopal church. He held the office of assessor of Cass township for a number of years, and was also elected to other of the minor offices. He was interested in the public life of the community, and for a number of years was captain of a rifle company that had quite a reputation in Hancock county. He was a practical farmer and useful man in the commuity, whose hand was always outstretched to do good. He married Magdeline Karn, a native of Maryland, by whom he had eight children, two of whom now reside in the county. Charles Eckels, after a life of usefulness, died in 1852 and his wife passed away in 1877.

Joel Eckels is a native of Hancock county, born on the farm which he now cultivates, March 22, 1837. He received his education in the common schools of his district, and passed his boyhood in the active work of those pioneer days. In his younger years he learned the blacksmith trade, serving his time at Fostoria and doing journeyman work for four years at Findlay. He worked twenty-five years at the anvil, during which time he established the reputation of being one of the best horse shoers and workers in iron in the county.

No event of special importance occurred in the early life of Joel Eckels to vary the usual routine, but after the inauguration of the Civil war all was changed and the patriotic spirit of the young man was aroused. He became one of the boys in blue who went to the front in defense of "Old Glory." He enlisted as a member of Company F, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for the three months' service, expecting as a great number of the soldiers did at the inception of the Civil war, that it would only take a short period to suppress the rebellion. On his being honorably discharged from that first service, he again enlisted, this time as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for "three years or the war." He saw much active service, following the flag through many of the most important battles of the war in the middle west. He was at Mossy Creek, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, Nashville, Franklin, on the Atlanta campaign and in many of the lighter skirmishes. Soon after his enlistment he was made first sergeant of his company, and in February, 1864, was commissioned second lieutenant for meritorious service on the field, and the following year was advanced to the rank of a first lieutenancy. He received his discharge at the close of the war and returned home with an honorable record as a defender of the Union. He had proved himself a true and brave soldier, and a good and true friend to his men, among whom he was an ex-

ceedingly popular officer. Mr. Eckels passed through the service without harm, with exception of the battle of Ft. Anderson, where he received a slight wound from a piece of shell. Two of his brothers also served in the Union army. Valentine Eckels was a member of the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was a sergeant and honorably discharged on account of disability. John Eckels was a member of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was advanced to the rank of sergeant for bravery on the field, and was subsequently commissioned second lieutenant of his company. He died while in the service of his country near Kennesaw Mountain in 1864.

November 13, 1867, Joel Eckels celebrated his marriage to Miss Deborah J., daughter of Llewellyn and Martha Biggs, and their union resulted in the birth of six children: Charles L., Cora V., deceased, Anna B., Martha E., Maggie D., and Clara B. Mrs. Eckels was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1834.

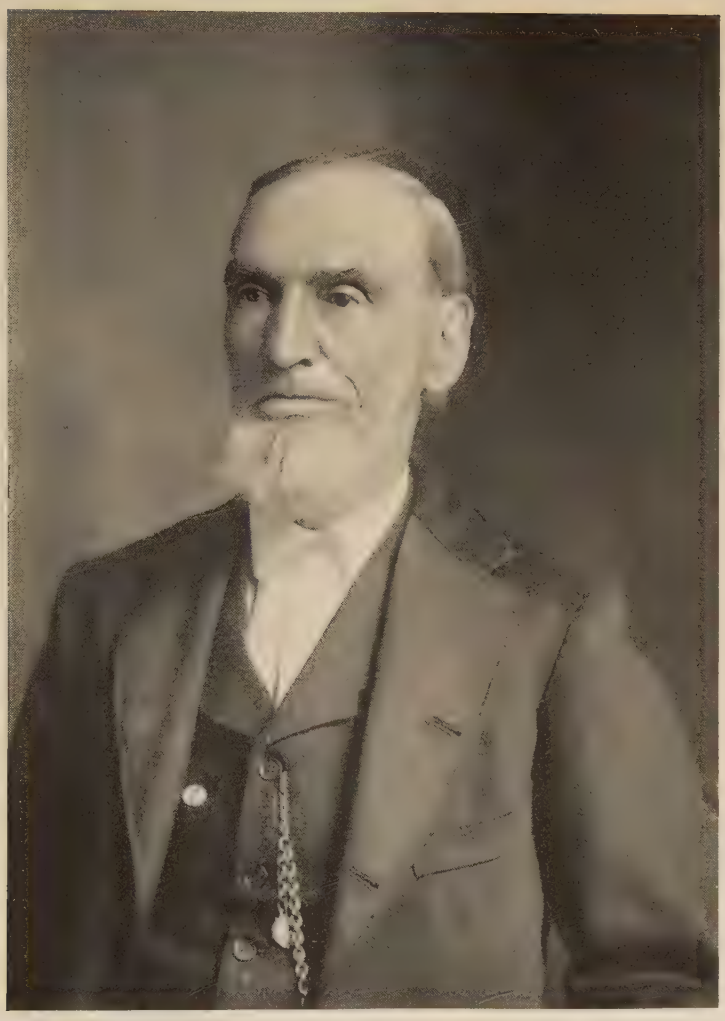
The military record of the Biggs family is as remarkable and as honorable as that of the Eckels, four of Mrs. Eckels's brothers giving gallant service during the war, their names being Samuel, Mathew, Wesley and James, Samuel was a captain. His death occurred August 22, 1900. James was a sergeant in the Fifty-seventh regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, the same in which Valentine Eckels was a sergeant. Mathew and Wesley were private soldiers, all gallant men and fought as heroes for the integrity of their country's flag.

Joel Eckels is a member of Urie Post, G. A. R., No. 110, of Bloomdale. He stands well in the community, and has filled some of the minor township offices, such as assessor, constable and supervisor. He enjoys the full confidence of his fellow citizens, and well deserves representation in this volume.

JUSTUS CHASE.

After a long and laborious life, characterized by the trials and troubles, good and ill fortune which beset all humanity in its struggle for betterment, the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch has retired from active business and is spending the evening of his days in repose at Findlay. It has not been an adventurous life, nor have its different periods been marked by either the romantic or the heroic. Just the plain life of an industrious agriculturist, and such as falls to the lot of most of those engaged in wresting a living from the bosom of Mother Earth, has been that of Justus Chase. He is a native of New York state and was born in 1817 on a farm in Saratoga county, near

Hannah J. Chase



Justus C. Lease

Amsterdam. When he was six months old his parents started in a wagon for Ohio, and all who have read the history of the early settlement of the west will understand that this was not a pleasure trip. A jolting ride over bad roads or no roads, all the way from central New York to the then undeveloped regions of Ohio, was hardly such as would be recommended to invalids or weaklings of any kind as a means of restoring health. But the little party, consisting of father and mother and fretful baby, eventually got across the mountains and plains lying between and drew up in Madison county, Ohio, which had been selected as their location. It not proving satisfactory for some reason, the Chases resumed their wanderings after a stay of two years and next took up their residence at Little Sandusky, in the county of Wyandotte. They lived there several years and then decided to retrace their steps to the old home in New York, thus illustrating the proverb that a "rolling stone gathers no moss." Again the emigration fever set in, and again Mr. and Mrs. Chase, with the baby and weary team, were on the road, this time headed for Niagara Falls, New York, in the vicinity of which great cataract they settled on a farm and endeavored for two years to extract a living from the same. At the end of that period a consultation was held and a decision arrived at to again try their fortunes at Little Sandusky, to which place they accordingly returned and there lived for the usual space of two years. Still another move, however, was to be made and this proved the final one, which gave the turn to the whole future life of our subject. In 1831 his parents settled permanently in Liberty township, Hancock county, where fortune at last smiled upon them and where they lived in peace until the end of their earthly career.

At the time his parents finally "came to anchor," as the sailors would say, Justus Chase had about completed the fourteenth year of his age, and the succeeding sixty-four years and seven months were spent on this Hancock farm. This long period was unbroken by any special incident, being devoted to agricultural affairs, in all the details and ramifications of which Mr. Chase became very proficient and accumulated a fair share of this world's goods. In 1895 he retired from active business and located at Findlay for that rest and repose with which every wise man desires to spend the evening of his earthly existence. Mr. Chase has been three times married, the first time in 1839 to Mary A. Jones, with whom he lived for fifty years, and who died in 1889, leaving five survivors of her eleven children. The second wife was Mrs. Sarah Williams, whose maiden name was Howard, but this lady only survived her marriage a year or two and died without issue. In 1895 Mr. Chase was united in marriage with Mrs. Anna (Frew) Eckles, who is at

present sharing with him the quiet home life at Findlay. Mr. Chase has long been connected with the Methodist Episcopal church, but his wife is a Presbyterian in her religious faith. The first presidential vote of Mr. Chase was cast for William Henry Harrison after the exciting "log cabin and coon skin" campaign of 1840. From the Whigs he naturally gravitated into the Republican movement and has voted steadily with that party from Fremont in 1856 to McKinley in 1900. The only one of the great fraternities to which he belongs is that of the Masons. He is a member of Findlay Lodge, No. 227, A. F. & A. M., which he joined thirty years ago. As a farmer, as a Mason, as a neighbor and as a good all-around citizen Justus Chase has always done his duty to his fellow man and to his country.

JOHN H. LINHART.

One of the most valuable farms in Hancock county, not only for agricultural purposes, but in the line of oil producers, is that owned by the subject of this review. It is situated in Cass township, and on it are sixteen producing wells. The subject of this biography is a son of Jacob and Martha (Homing) Linhart, both of whom were natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and born about the year 1808. They passed almost the entire period of their lives in the county of their nativity, where they were successful and prosperous farmers. In the last year of the great Civil war they removed to Hancock county, where they purchased two hundred and seventeen acres of land, to which they added at various times, and at their death the estate consisted of three hundred and seventy-seven acres. Jacob Linhart attended strictly to his own business, and succeeded in paving the way for his descendants, who have taken up the reins where he laid them down. He gave adherence to the Lutheran faith, and was a liberal contributor to the church. He died in 1872, his wife outliving him by two decades, and their family numbered seven children, five of whom are living.

John H. Linhart was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1844, and passed his boyhood on the farm, no event of special importance occurring to break the monotony of his existence. He acquired the ordinary branches of education in the common schools of his district. He has always confined himself to agricultural pursuits, and upon arriving at maturity purchased one hundred acres of land. He is a practical farmer and a worthy citizen. He stands well in the community, where he has held the office of supervisor for some time. He, like his father before him, is a member of the Lutheran church, as is also Mrs. Linhart. This lady he married in 1867,

her maiden name having been Hannah Starm. Her parents, Samuel and Elizabeth C. Starm, came to the county about 1856 from Wayne county, Ohio, and settled in Madison township on a farm of eighty acres. They later removed to Fostoria, where Mr. Starm pursued his early trade, that of carpentry, for a number of years, and where he died in 1892. Mrs. Starm is also deceased, having passed to her rest in the year 1900. They reared a family of eight children, four of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Linhart have five children: Martha E., Jacob A., Nellie M., Harvey S., and Curtis C.

Jacob A. Linhart, the eldest son, now one of the progressive young farmers of the county, was born in Cass township, December 26, 1871. Being reared on the farm, he early became familiar with the labors of the field and meadow and assisted in the general work. He passed his boyhood days uneventfully, and in the common schools of his district acquired his elementary education. Arriving at manhood, he chose for a companion on life's journey a very estimable lady and a member of one of the most progressive and respected families in the county, the record of which will be found elsewhere in this volume. Her maiden name was Arnolda M. Overholt, she being the daughter of J. S. and Maria Overholt. Her marriage to Mr. Linhart occurred August 17, 1893, and to this happy union have been born two children, Le Roy, born August 26, 1894, and John S., born May 14, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Linhart are worthy members of the Lutheran church.

RICHARD W. BOYD.

Richard W. Boyd is now living a retired life in Findlay. He has passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey and receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded to one in advanced years. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1822. His father, Thomas Boyd, was also a native of the same county, while his grandfather, David Boyd, was likewise born in the Keystone state. The father of the last named was killed by the Indians when David was a mere child, and he was carried off and held a prisoner for three years. When the country became involved in war with England, wishing to become an independent nation, David Boyd entered the American army and valiantly fought for the cause of liberty. Thomas Boyd was reared and educated in his native state and after arriving at years of maturity he wedded Mary Scott, by whom he had eight children, two of whom are yet living: Joseph H., a resident of Ashland, Ohio, now ninety-three years of age; and the subject of this review.

Richard W. Boyd spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof in Pennsylvania, there remaining until he was twenty-five years of age, when he came to Ohio, settling in Ashland county, where he engaged in farming for two years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Mansfield, Ohio, where he lived for two years and during that time engaged in executing a contract to furnish ties for four miles of the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroad. In 1851 he came to Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, and here again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, successfully conducting his farm until 1887, when oil was found upon his land, and there are now about forty wells upon his place. These return to him a good royalty and since the discovery of oil and the sinking of the wells he has practically lived retired. In 1900 he took up his abode in Findlay, where he is now living in the enjoyment of a well merited rest.

In 1853 Mr. Boyd was united in marriage to Almira, a daughter of Jacob Ewing, and this union has been blessed with nine children, four of whom are yet living, as follows: Mary M., the wife of Eli Reed; Thomas C.; Etta R., the wife of John B. Heimhofer; and Jennie, the wife of Parlee Mitchell.

Mr. Boyd has ever been a loyal, public spirited citizen and at the time of the Mexican war he volunteered his services, but the troops were not needed and he never went into action. He has served for four years as justice of the peace in Liberty township, discharging his duties with fairness and capability. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and his life has been an upright and honorable one, winning for him the commendation of all concerned.

HON. CHARLES BRIGHT.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, and who has acquired a high reputation in his chosen calling, and whose prominence is not the less the result of an irreproachable life than of recognized natural gifts. It is a pleasing duty to write the biography of a man of this character, such as the Hon. Charles Bright is known to be. This gentleman is a well known and influential farmer of Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, residing on a farm of three hundred and fifty-three acres, containing both gas and oil. Mr. Bright is not only an extensive farmer, but is a well informed and successful business man. He was born near the town of Lancaster, in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 28th of December, 1835, and is the son of David and Leahr (Arnold) Bright. David Bright, the

Chas Bright

paternal grandfather was born in Berks county Pennsylvania, and came in 1800 to what is now the state of Ohio, settling near Lancaster, where he died. Charles Bright received a common school education, which was greatly enlarged by subsequent study. Being of an observant and inquiring disposition and a great lover of books, he has added to his stock of knowledge until he is now looked upon as a very well read man. His life has been an active and eventful one. In the dark days of the Rebellion, in the full power of his manhood, he gave himself a willing sacrifice on the altar of his country. He enrolled as a private soldier in Company F, of the Seventeenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division, Fourteeenth Army Corps. Immediately after his enlistment he was made corporal of his company, and the following year was promoted to sergeant for meritorious service on the field. He participated in the following battles: Wild Cat Mountain (Kentucky), Corinth, Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, the siege of Atlanta, Peach Tree Creek, Burnt Hickory and Jonesboro, besides other battles of minor importance. During the three years of his army life he had shown himself worthy of the great nation of which he was a citizen and the great cause he represented and helped to carry through to a successful issue. He had during this time many narrow escapes. The exposures he endured brought on rheumatism, but he is now receiving a recompense for this, which is richly deserved. He was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant at Atlanta, Georgia, on the 22d of October, 1864. Returning to his home, he on the 24th of September, 1866, was happily married to Miss Katherine A., the daughter of John and Eliza Carnes, of Fairfield county, Ohio. The union has been blessed with two sons and a daughter, whose names are John C., born June 12, 1869; David R., born August 3, 1873, and Effie E. E., born August 2, 1876, now Mrs. Curtis M. Wiseley.

In 1867 Mr. Bright removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where he located on his present farm, containing one hundred and fifty-seven acres at that time, to which he has added at various times two other farms, making in all three hundred and fifty-three acres. In public life Mr. Bright has always been willing to do his share of the work of his immediate community. He has served as supervisor for several years at various periods. He has also served as trustee of the township, and at other periods has held the offices of treasurer and land appraiser, which he has filled with exceptional ability and to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens.

In 1893 he was elected a member of the seventy-first general assembly of the state of Ohio from Hancock county. This was in recognition of effective

service rendered his party during his long residence in the county, he having always been ready to do anything that would advance the principles which he values so much. His majority over his competitor, who was a very popular gentleman by the name of Moses McAnnelly and a Democrat of the strongest type, was four hundred and eighty-six, the highest majority ever given a Republican for the office of representative in Hancock county up to that date. Mr. Bright has connected himself with Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic at Findlay, and takes delight in furthering the interest of the old soldiers, of whom he is a worthy and honored representative.

It is a pleasure to show our appreciation of such a man as Mr. Bright, who in every relation of life has been faithful to every trust, a statesman diligent in the service of his country and keeping before him only the public good.

CHARLES A. STOCKTON.

The well known pension agent of this name at Findlay is entitled to representation in any history of his county by reason of his services to the community, both in war and peace. He has an unblemished and unusually meritorious military record, covering four years of arduous campaigning, during the Civil war, while most of his time since has been devoted to serving his old comrades in their efforts to get what is due them from the government. Meantime he has not been neglectful of any duty imposed by the obligations of good citizenship, but has stood ready at all times to do his share in promoting the general welfare.

The Stockton family, which originated in England, can justly boast of a long lineage and an aristocratic pedigree. Not attempting to go farther back than the earliest emigration to this country, it may be stated that Charles W. Stockton, son of the first comer, was born in New Jersey, where he married Elizabeth, sister of Lord North, of England, an adviser of George III. Charles W. was a cousin of Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Richard W. Stockton, son of the last mentioned, and a native of New York, served as surgeon in the war of 1812, and died in 1870 aged eighty-four years. His son, Erastus D. Stockton, was born in New York in 1811, became a general merchant after his removal to Ohio, joined an Iowa regiment in the fall of 1861 and died in the service about one year later of disease.

Charles A. Stockton, son of Erastus D., was born in Nelsonville, Ohio, in 1839, and seven years later went to live on a farm in Knox county. After

remaining there until 1858 he removed to Hancock county and located at Mount Blanchard, where he resided until entering the Union army. In 1859 Charles A. began the study of medicine in connection with school teaching, which occupied his time until the momentous event which completely changed the whole tenor of his life. April 18, 1861, he enlisted at Forest, Ohio, as a private in Company D, Fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served three months and then veteranized by re-enlisting in the same for three years or the war. Mr. Stockton took part with his regiment in the most famous campaigns and several of the most important battles of the Civil war, including Rich Mountain, Romney, Winchester, Front Royal, Port Republic, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He received a wound in the arm at Chancellorsville, and after Gettysburg was detailed as assistant in the adjutant-general's office at Washington, D. C., where he remained until mustered out on June 4, 1864, at Columbus, Ohio, with the rank of corporal. After being released from army duty, Mr. Stockton embarked in the dry-goods and pension business at Forest, Ohio, which he conducted in combination for fifteen years. In 1880 he transferred his scene of operations to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he conducted the pension business four years and then returning to Ohio established an office for the continuance of his work at Findlay.

In 1865 Mr. Stockton was married to Emma J. Cook, by whom he has five children, and since 1889 the family has resided at Findlay. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, Republican in politics, has served on the board of trustees and as justice of the peace. Mr. Stockton is prominent in Odd Fellowship, having been representative to the grand lodge four years, and belongs to Stoker Post, No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic.

DAVID C. ROUTZON.

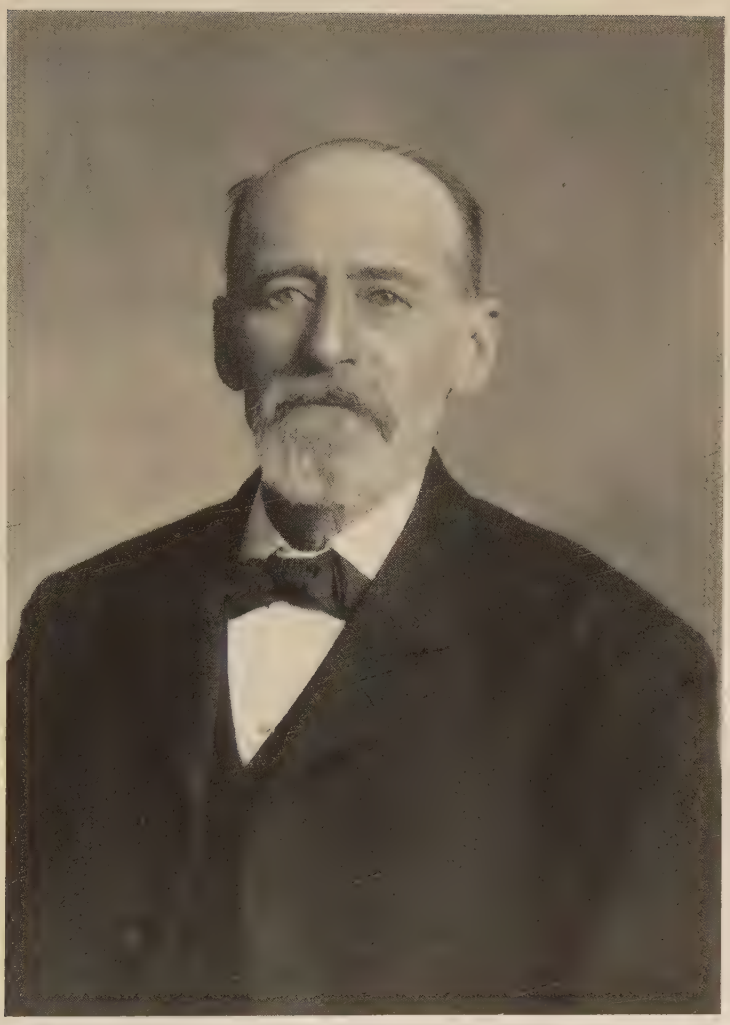
Marion township, Hancock county, has many estimable citizens within its borders, but none more so than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1837. In early childhood his parents removed to Hancock county, where he was reared and was given the ordinary country school education. He came to the county when he was three years old, and has since been a resident here. He passed his boyhood on the farm engaged in the occupations and pleasures of the average farmer boy. They were such, however, as to develop good traits of character, and he has always been an active and busy worker. He early learned the brick layer's trade, which he followed for a period of thirty-seven years.

During that time he was an extensive contractor, and he erected many handsome buildings, which are to-day monuments to his superior handicraft. Many of these buildings are to be seen in the city of Findlay and vicinity. The energy which he devoted to his calling, together with the sound business judgment which he always displayed in making investments of his savings, resulted in the accumulation of a competence which he is now enjoying. He, however, is not entirely inactive, for no man who follows the busy life which our subject pursued, can afford to rust out. People of his class always prefer to wear out. He therefore is continuing this wearing process in the management of a small place, making a specialty of bee culture, and having at this time about one hundred colonies of bees. Mr. Routzon is an expert in bee culture, having given attention to this business for the past twenty-five years, and he is well up on all that pertains to a modern apiary. His stock is of the best Italian strain, the output per colony being fifty pounds. He cleared his own land and built his own house, and as he remarks "owes no man anything but—love." March 28, 1861, Mr. Routzon was joined in marriage to Mary Baer, who has borne him twelve children: Jannette; Jennie, deceased; Margaret; Vivie; G. W.; John D.; Warren; David E. C.; Jason H.; Wilbur; Eugene, deceased; and Harvey, deceased. The mother of this family was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, February 3, 1842. The parents of David C. Routzon were John and Jane Routzon, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respectively. His father was born in 1796 and died in 1877 in Hancock county, Ohio. He was a brickmaker by trade, and was one of the early pioneers of the state. He was an extensive contractor and a well known business man of the town of Findlay. The grandfather of David C. Routzon was David Routzon, a native of Maryland, who came from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Hancock county in 1837, and died at Findlay. David C. Routzon has been one of the upright men of this county. He has never had a lawsuit and is universally esteemed both as a man and citizen.

CYRUS GRUBB.

In recounting the life of Cyrus Grubb we are touching the history of one of the prominent families of this county. His parents, Jacob and Mary A. (Critzer) Grubb, were both of Welsh descent and natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a tailor by trade, but shortly after his marriage began farming in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. In 1848 they left the old home to put their efforts into an unimproved farm of one hundred and twenty acres

Lizzie Grubb



Cyrus Grubb

near Findlay in Marion township. They held this land until 1862, when they sold and located on a farm of the same size in Liberty township. The old farm in Marion township is now owned by D. L. Norris, whereas the land in Liberty township is still in the family, being held and operated by the youngest son, John H. Grubb.

Jacob Grubb was a man in whom his fellow citizens placed great confidence. He belonged to the United Brethren church and was for several years a steward in that church. In 1889 his wife died, and three years later, in 1892 he followed her to the grave. Of their nine children six survive: Elizabeth, Cyrus, Catherine, Emma, Jacob G. and John H. Grubb.

The eldest son, Cyrus, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, November 9, 1843. Five years later his parents settled near Findlay, where Cyrus spent his childhood and youth, securing a common-school education and learning to enjoy agricultural pursuits. In 1862 he followed his parents to Liberty township, and one year later enlisted in Company B, of the Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving his country until the close of the war, when in 1865 he was honorably discharged. Three years later, in 1868, he married Leaffa A. Goudy, by whom he had four children: Lewis O., Mary B., Calvin O. and Bertha A. Mary became the wife of D. D. Porter, and Bertha was married to Roy George. In 1884 his wife died, and two years later he married Lizzie Fry, who was born in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, March 28, 1862, a daughter of Jesse and Mary Ann (Bowman) Fry, who were born and died in Pennsylvania. By this marriage Mr. Grubb was the father of four children: Roy A., Grace M., Clarence H. and Fae Aline.

Cyrus Grubb stands among his fellow citizens as a true type of the self-made man. His industry has assured him comfortable circumstances, and by his integrity and patriotism he has won the esteem of the community. His first purchase of land was made in 1872 under the burden of a heavy debt. By untiring industry he gained a clear title to the first eighty acres, and now he is sole owner of four hundred and thirty-seven acres of the finest farming land in Hancock county. Two hundred of these acres are in Blanchard township, upon which there are new buildings; the remaining land is in Liberty township, where in 1899 he built a beautiful residence and where from time to time he has put up larger and finer farm buildings, as the increased demands of his business dictated.

Mr. Grubb, though thoroughly devoted to farming, has had sufficient time and interest in public affairs to hold several township offices, including

that of township trustee. His life may truly be counted a success. In politics he has been a life-long Republican and member of Benton Ridge Post, No. 109, G. A. R.

GEORGE F. CRAMER.

Since early pioneer days members of the Cramer family have resided in Hancock county, and they have nobly borne their part in the work of improvement as loyal and patriotic citizens. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Philip Cramer, came from Pennsylvania, his native state, to Fairfield county, Ohio, in early pioneer days, and in that locality the family made their home for some time. Coming to Hancock county in 1830, he here entered four hundred acres of land, which was located in various townships, and this he afterward gave to his children. His was a deeply religious nature, and he became a prominent minister in the United Brethren church, having been the means of guiding many to the better way, while at the same time he proved himself a financier of no small ability. Through his efforts was erected the first grist-mill operated by horse power in Union township. Philip Cramer was three times married and became the father of fifteen children, and one of his daughters, Sally, was the first girl married in Union township, Hancock county. The following are the children who accompanied him on his removal to Hancock county: Philip, John, Christina, Simon, Adam, Daniel, Jacob, Sarah, Phebe, Rachel and Margaret. Philip Cramer died after reaching the eighty-fourth milestone on the journey of life. His was a long, active, useful and honorable life, and his name is indelibly inscribed on the pages of Hancock county's history.

Daniel Cramer, the only one of the above named children now living, became the father of our subject. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 22d of July, 1820, and was but ten years of age when he was brought by his parents to Hancock county, the year of their arrival being 1830. His farm of seventy-three acres was inherited from his father, and the tract is located in Union township, where he is engaged in general farming. In April, 1844, he was united in marriage to Christina Hartege, who was born in 1824, in Germany, where her father, Lorenzo Hartege, served as a soldier under Napoleon. In 1834, when ten years of age, Mrs. Cramer left her little German home for the United States, and by her marriage she became the mother of ten children, eight of whom are now living, namely: George, Louisa, Levi, Elmira, Rebecca, Aaron, Amanda and Melissa. Six of the number reside in Hancock county.

George Cramer, whose name introduces this review, was born on his father's farm in Union township, on the 30th of March, 1846, and to its public school system he is indebted for his elementary education, which was completed in the schools of Findlay. During the early years of his life he worked at the carpenter's trade, but later abandoned that occupation for farming, which he now continues on the old homestead. For six years he made his home in the village of Rawson, and during that time he served efficiently as its treasurer. He has also held other public positions, having for ten years served as the constable of his township, and for a long period was an assessor. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Rawson. His marriage was celebrated on the 26th of August, 1886, when Miss Sarah C. Barnhill became his wife. She was born in Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, May 18, 1858, being a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Barnhill, and her death occurred on the 26th of August, 1892. Three children graced this union, but the first born, Grace, is now deceased, the others being Georgie F. and Gerty G. The family are members of the United Brethren church.

BENJAMIN C. STEINMAN.

Jenera, a village of Van Buren township, though a comparatively new growth, holds its own quite well with other towns of its size in Hancock county. It is surrounded by a good farming community and is the center of a considerable trade of a local character, which promises in time to make the village a place of some importance. In places of this kind "the store" is always a feature of consequence, being a kind of rallying point and headquarters for news, as well as the supply depot for all in need of goods of any kind. The establishment in Jenera which fills this description has for six or eight years been under the energetic management of Mr. B. C. Steinman, who has shown himself well qualified to fill the role of general merchant, and has attained a high degree of prosperity among his patrons. He is of German descent and a son of a man who rose to distinction in politics and held a position of commanding influence during his days of activity. Adam Steinman, a native of Germany, was but eleven years old when brought to this country by his parents. His first residence was in Pennsylvania, but later he came to Columbus, Ohio, and there learned the tailor's trade, which he afterward pursued many years with a profit that made him fairly independent. Eventually he found his way to Hancock county, where his "mixing" qualities soon made him popular and enabled him to rise in the political world. Be-

coming one of the local leaders of the Democracy, he was elected county recorder on the ticket of that party during the period of the Civil war and subsequently served repeated terms in the office of justice of the peace. By a first marriage, with a Mrs. Smith, Mr. Steinman had three sons and one daughter; by a second union, contracted with Mrs. Elizabeth (Tanner) Helmes, there was no issue.

Benjamin C. Steinman, the second child as well as second son in this family, was born in Eagle township, Hancock county, Ohio, February 4, 1858, and received his education in different schools, including those at Findlay. In early life he went to Springfield, Ohio, in search of work, and, obtaining employment as a clerk in one of the general stores of that city, remained there four years. At the expiration of that time he returned home and subsequently went to Findlay, where he was engaged a short time in the grocery business. This he abandoned to go into farming, which pursuit he followed until his marriage, August 30, 1888, to Miss Maggie C. Grossman. A year after this important event in his domestic life Mr. Steinman engaged in the general merchandise business at Jenera, first as clerk and later as proprietor. In 1895 he purchased from his employer the store in which he had been clerking and has since then had sole charge. It is a general store in the truest sense, containing a large and miscellaneous stock of goods of every kind likely to be in demand at such a place, dry goods and gents' furnishings being special features. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Steinman one, named Carrie, died in infancy, the survivors being Ancel C., Calvin A., Nelo B. and Imo C. Mr. Steinman is Democratic in his politics, has held the offices of clerk of the township and mayor of the village and is now treasurer of the corporation. He holds fraternal relations with the K. O. T. M. and ranks as one of the leading men in the political and social as well as the business life of the township.

GEORGE F. HAMMOND.

The above named, at present a prosperous farmer of Union township, is one of that honored class who served his country loyally and well during the great crisis of the Union, and cherishes the memory of the adventures, hardships and dangers which beset every veteran of the Civil war. The modest soldier never boasts of his achievements, but it is fitting that others should say for him what he fails to say for himself, and it is a pleasure for the biographer to state that no private soldier of the great army whose heroism and self-sacrifice perpetuated this great Republic, has a more creditable record

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Hammond.

than George F. Hammond. More fortunate than others, though serving throughout the whole period of the war, he escaped without serious injury and has since devoted his strength of mind and body in achieving another honorable career in the ranks of industrial toilers. On the paternal side he is of Virginia ancestry, his father, George Hammond, having emigrated from the Old Dominion during the earlier decades of the nineteenth century. He located in Carroll county, Ohio, married a lady whose parents came from Maryland, and in 1852 removed to Hancock county. He was a cooper by trade and followed that calling throughout his life, the latter years of which were spent in Indiana, where he ended his days in 1865. His wife Ann Hammond had preceded him from the scenes of earth, her death having occurred in 1863.

Their son, George F. Hammond, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, September 19, 1838, and was consequently fourteen years of age when his parents took up their abode in Hancock county. The Civil war was opened shortly after he reached manhood and he imbibed the spirit of patriotism then rife around him, which urged every able bodied young man to take up arms for his country. Mr. Hammond was one of the first to come forward and exhibited his earnestness by enlisting in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he was promptly sent to the front. It was his fortune to serve in some of the most important of the western campaigns, including the ever memorable one of Sherman in 1864 from Chattanooga to Atlanta. During his service Mr. Hammond took part in innumerable skirmishes and hard marches, besides the great battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Atlanta. He carried his musket until the termination of hostilities, missing few roll calls, and always on hand when serious work was to be done, finally getting an honorable discharge without serious mishap at the close of the war in 1865. Mr. Hammond's father and one of his brothers were also soldiers in the Eleventh Regiment, Indiana Cavalry. Another brother, named Harrison, died in the service at Nashville, Tennessee, in June, 1863.

After returning to civil life Mr. Hammond lost no time in seeking a means of livelihood by joining the hosts engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1867 he made his first purchase of land, consisting of forty acres in Blanchard township, which he retained and cultivated for some years afterward. Subsequently, however, he disposed of this property and purchased of Lewis Dukes a tract of one hundred and fourteen acres situated in Union township, which constitutes his present homestead. This farm was in only a fair state of cultivation at the time it was purchased by Mr. Hammond, but

he has since greatly improved it and devotes all the arable area to general farming and stock raising.

October 28, 1858, Mr. Hammond selected his life partner in the person of Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Martha Seitz, with whom he lived happily until her death July 31, 1902, at the age of sixty years. The children resulting from this union were eight in number, but of these only the following named grew to maturity: Jane, Sherman, Emma, Alfred, Amanda and George G. Mr. Hammond has always supported the principles of the Republican and preserves memories of old times and old associations as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

WILLIAM R. RUMMELL.

One of the representative citizens and progressive business men of the city of Findlay is Mr. Rummell, whose life has been passed here, his father having located in the town more than half a century ago and having been prominently identified with its business activities until his death, being a man of the highest character and commanding unequivocal confidence and esteem in the community.

William R. Rummell was born in Findlay, on the 2d of September, 1860, and received his early educational discipline in the public schools of his native city. He left school at the age of fifteen and gave inception to his business career by assuming a clerical position in his father's furniture establishment. He thoroughly familiarized himself with all details of the enterprise, and in 1888 was admitted to partnership in the business, the firm name of D. Rummell & Son being simultaneously adopted. Since the death of his father, in 1897, the subject of this sketch has individually continued the business, which is one of no inconsiderable scope and importance, the establishment being well equipped with a large and select line of furniture and being one of the popular business institutions of the city.

David Rummell, father of our subject, was likewise a native of the Buckeye state, having been born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in the year 1830, the son of Jacob Rummell, who was born in Germany, in the year 1792, and who died in Findlay, in 1879, having been a brick mason and contractor by vocation and honored as one of the pioneers of the state. In 1851 David Rummell was united in marriage to Mary Reed, daughter of William Reed, of Letonia, Columbiana county, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Ellen M., Jesse B., William R. and George B. David Rummell came to Hancock county in 1848, having been a chairmaker and brick

mason by trade. In 1875 he established himself in the furniture business in Findlay and by his sterling integrity and honorable and progressive methods succeeded in building up a large and representative business, while he took a lively interest in all that promoted the general welfare of the community. He served for a number of years as a member of the city council and also as a member of the board of education, and he was honored for his fidelity and for his rigorous observance of the ethics which should safeguard all human thought and action.

William R. Rummell proved an able coadjutor to his father in his business enterprise and has since continued the same with honor and credit. He is a Republican in his political proclivities and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

In Allegan county, Michigan, in the year 1882, Mr. Rummell was united in marriage to Miss Nancy E. Bowman, a daughter of William Bowman, and they are the parents of three children,—Karl R., Maud B. and Mary C.

FRANCIS M. MILLER.

During his residence of less than seven years in Findlay the subject of this sketch has become popular in connection with the city's varied activities, social, political and commercial. He has made the "Oak Pharmacy" a well known establishment and both by business tact and uniform courtesy in his intercourse has acquired a good patronage along with many friends and well-wishers. He thoroughly understands the technique of his calling, which is that of a pharmacist, and keeps well informed as to all improvements and new discoveries in that line of business. His family originated in Pennsylvania, whence his grandparents came in the first half of the nineteenth century, and settled in Monroe county, Ohio. With them came a son named Jacob, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, and was but a youth when the removal to the west took place. Jacob Miller grew up in his new Ohio home, married, raised a family and went to his final rest in Beallsville in 1883. His surviving children, five in number, are thus named in order of birth: Emmet M.; Ophelia, wife of Isaac Hartline; Francis M.; John B. and Clara.

Francis M. Miller, third of the above enumerated family, was born at Beallsville, Monroe county, Ohio, in 1868, and was reared and educated in his native place. From an early age his tastes and inclinations were towards

the druggist's profession, and after growing up he lost no time in securing an opportunity to qualify himself for this useful calling. Shortly after reaching his majority he entered the College of Pharmacy at Ada, Ohio, and remained at that excellent institution until his graduation in 1894. Thus equipped with a modern education in his chosen vocation, he went with little delay to Lima, Ohio, where he purchased a drug store and opened for business. Not liking the location, he determined to transfer his scene of operations to Findlay, where, in 1895, he established the "Oak Pharmacy," and from that time on he has had charge of this store, which has grown in popularity as it increased its patronage.

Mr. Miller is quite conspicuous in Knights of Pythias circles, and takes much interest in the affairs of the order. He is a member of Lodge No. 400 at Findlay, captain of the Uniformed Rank and has held all the chairs in his lodge. Politically his affiliations are with the Republican party, though not especially active in the campaigns, and he holds membership in the Church of Christ. As a young man of good manners as well as good morals, Mr. Miller has commended himself to all with whom he has come in contact, and enjoys general esteem both in the social and business world.

WILLIAM H. HOUCK.

An interesting old pioneer couple were the late Jacob F. Houck and his wife, whom he married as Eve Ebaugh. The former was born in Baltimore county, Maryland, early in the nineteenth century, and the latter in York county, Pennsylvania, and after marriage in the east they came to Hancock county in the fall of 1836. They located on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land, purchased in Jackson township, which was shortly afterward increased to the extent of thirty-six additional acres, and here they settled down to the hard work of clearing a primitive place. Jacob became a man of consequence in the community in various ways, holding every office in the township except those of constable and justice of the peace, and was captain of a militia company called the Blanchard Blues. The family's religious affiliations were with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Houck was steward for a number of years and one of the pillars of the organization. This worthy pioneer pair had ten children, of whom eight grew to maturity and seven of these are still living. The mother passed away in 1850, and her husband, after surviving her thirty-four years, closed his eyes upon the world in 1884.

William H. Houck, eldest son among the children above mentioned, was

W^x and Eliz^h Hauck

born in Baltimore, now Carroll county, Maryland, March 4, 1826, and consequently was ten years old when his parents made their journey to the western wilderness. It was upon his vigorous young shoulders in after years that the task devolved of bringing into cultivation the wild land purchased by his father. In 1852, in connection with his father, he built a sawmill at what was called Houcktown and the operation of this occupied most of his time for ten years. Eventually he exchanged this property for eighty acres of land, which, however, was soon sold and the proceeds invested in another tract, still in its virgin state. Mr. Houck took hold of this with his usual energy and in time converted it into a smiling farm, well fenced and highly improved after the latest methods. Some notion of what this pioneer settler has gone through may be realized from the statement that during his lifetime he has cleared all told two hundred acres of land. The amount of "hard licks," patient endurance, grinding labor and endless drudgery involved in this will give the modern man an idea, however incomplete, of what it took to make Hancock county the agricultural paradise it now exhibits. Mr. Houck's present homestead, which he has owned since 1863, consists of two hundred acres of well improved land in Jackson township, which he devotes to general farming and stock-raising. He has held various important township offices, including that of trustee for six years and in a general way has been both a busy and useful citizen.

In 1852 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Smaltz, and of the eleven children of this union ten grew to maturity: Solomon S., Adam B., Catherine E., Annie M., Lottie A., John P., Jacob H., Robert C., Perry H. and Willie E. All these have been liberally educated, well settled in life and occupy places of usefulness in their respective spheres. The mother passed away in September, 1899, in ripeness of years and enjoyment of the devoted love of her family as well as the universal respect of all acquaintances. Mr. Houck is a devoted member of the Methodist church, in which he has been class leader for more than half a century and licensed to exhort over forty years. The appreciation put upon his good judgment and rectitude is shown by the fact that on five different occasions he was selected as a member of the county grand jury. His brother Adam served as a soldier during the Rebellion and became an eminent physician after the war, removing to Kansas, where his death occurred some years ago. The foregoing details are ample to show that the Houcks, both of the older and later generations, are among the best families in the county and second to none in the discharge of all the duties of good citizenship. In 1902 Mr. Houck took up his home with his son Willie, at 605 West Hardin street, in Findlay. Willie married

Gail Grindle, daughter of D. H. and Lizzie U. (Miller) Grindle, and has two interesting children, Hugh H. and Mary Elizabeth. He is interested in the marble and granite business.

JACOB O. KETZENBARGER.

Few citizens of Hancock county, Ohio, are better known or have been more successful in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising than Jacob O. Ketzenbarger, who owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township. He is a native son of Hancock county, his birth occurring in Union township on the 7th of February, 1861. He is a son of Sebastian Ketzenbarger, who was born in Germany August 31, 1823, and the latter's parents, Michael and Eve (Strong) Ketzenbarger, were also natives of the fatherland. In 1833 they emigrated to America, first taking up their abode in Baltimore, Maryland, where Michael pursued his trade of wagonmaking and farming for a number of years. From Baltimore they subsequently removed to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, there making their home for a time, and in 1840 cast in their lot with the early settlers of Hancock county, their son Sebastian being at that time about eighteen years of age. During all these years Michael Ketzenbarger continued to follow his trade of wagonmaking, while his sons carried on the work of the farm. In his family were three children who grew to years of maturity—Mary, Annie and Sebastian, but the last named is now the only one living. The father was called to his final rest in 1845, and his wife followed him to the grave some years later.

Sebastian Ketzenbarger, the father of our subject, accompanied his parents on their various removals, and his first purchase of real estate was in Union township, Hancock county, the same consisting of one hundred acres of timber land. In the midst of the virgin forest he erected a little log house and began life in true pioneer style, but as the years passed by he succeeded in clearing his land and placing his fields under cultivation, this having been accomplished only by incessant toil and excellent management. Selling his possessions in 1866, he removed to Wood county, Ohio, where he became the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which he made his home until 1888, and in that year he came again to Hancock county, where he now owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mr. Ketzenbarger has been twice married, his first wife having been in her maidenhood Miss Rachel Cramer, and their wedding was celebrated on the 13th of September, 1849. This union resulted in the birth of nine children: Isabell, who was born in 1850, and is now deceased; John, born in 1851; Sarah, who

was born in 1853, and is also deceased; Andrew, born in 1855; Irene, born in 1857; George and Ella, twins, and their birth occurred in 1859, but the last named is now deceased; Jacob O., born in 1861; and Marianna, born in 1862. Mrs. Ketzenbarger, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 21, 1822, died in 1891, and Mr. Ketzenbarger's second marriage occurred in December, 1895, when Mrs. Lucy Fox became his wife. In political matters the family have long been identified with Democratic principles.

Jacob O. Ketzenbarger, the immediate subject of this review, was taken by his parents to Wood county, Ohio, when but five years of age, and in the public schools of that county he received his early mental training. In 1889 he returned to Union township, Hancock county, and in 1900 purchased his present farm of fifty acres, which he is now operating in connection with his father's old homestead. He makes his home on the last named place, and in his farming and stock-raising interests he has met with a high degree of success. His land is well improved, and his fields now annually yield to him a handsome financial return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them. On the 9th of November, 1882, Miss Nellie Eckleberger became his wife, and they have become the parents of four children, namely: Reggie C., who was born on the 25th of September, 1883; John I., born May 1, 1887; Ella G., who was born on the 2d of June, 1890; and Ethel L., born December 27, 1895. Mrs. Ketzenbarger was born in Wood county Ohio, April 18, 1862, and is a daughter of John and Barbara Eckelberger. The Ketzenbarger family are worthy members of the United Brethren church. They are held in high regard in the community in which they reside, and their own home is celebrated for its gracious hospitality.

JOHN T. MONTGOMERY.

The subject of this sketch, though now a prosperous producer and dealer in oil, a factor in a Missouri lumber enterprise, and otherwise identified with the industrial development of Findlay, has not reached his present position without the usual "ups and downs" that generally accompany human endeavor. He had few advantages in early life and put in many hard licks as a blacksmith before fortune smiled upon him and enabled him to live without the the drudgery of daily toil. He is of Irish origin, his father, William Montgomery, having been born in the historic land of Erin in 1820, whence he emigrated to the new world and after a struggle ended his days in Canada in 1894. It was in the last mentioned country that his son, John T. Montgomery, first saw the light of day, his birth having occurred there in 1853.

He was reared at Renfrew, the place of his nativity, but in 1877 made his way to the Pennsylvania oil fields. But being of a speculative turn of mind and realizing that blacksmithing was a rather slow way to make much advancement, Mr. Montgomery secured an interest in some oil wells in Allegany county, New York. After obtaining this foretaste, and realizing the immense possibilities of this great industry, he transferred the scene of his operations to Ohio, locating at Findlay in 1887. Immediately thereafter he entered upon his career as a producer and contractor in oil, and has achieved conspicuous success in this fascinating line of investment. He is now senior member of the firm of Montgomery & Stitt, which owns wells in Hancock, Wood, Mercer, Sandusky and Lucas counties, Ohio. In addition to these interests, Mr. Montgomery is a member of the Findlay Lumber Company, consisting of two persons besides himself, which has acquired a lot of timber land in Missouri and is operating a sawmill thereon.

In September, 1893, Mr. Montgomery married Anna M. George, who died leaving a daughter named Hortensia. In 1897 he took a second wife in the person of Miss Lida M. Shoultz, of Findlay, Ohio, by whom he has two children, John William and Irene. Mr. Montgomery is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, independent in politics and a Mason. He is recognized among his associates as a man of strong force of character and remarkably good judgment in business matters. Though not a large man, his physical development is like that of an athlete, full of nervous energy and with a muscular strength which suggests his early training at the anvil as the prime cause. He lives in a handsome house at Findlay, where all friends who call are entertained with cordial welcome and genuine Irish joviality.

JOHN T. ARNOLD.

While a modest man never boasts of his achievements, from dislike to what would appear as self-glorification, it is not improper for friends of the gentleman above named to say for him what he would not be heard saying for himself—that he had achieved success in the world under very disadvantageous circumstances. The orphan at best usually has a hard lot, but when poverty is coupled with orphanage at a very early age a cross is made which is very hard to bear. Even if the child is fortunate enough to fall into good hands there can be no substitute for a mother's love or a father's care, and when later the real battle of life begins the natural difficulties always in the way seem especially loaded for the forlorn and friendless. The fact that

John T. and Jane E. Arnold.

Mr. Arnold had to go through all these experiences and overcame them without succumbing furnishes the basis for the compliment paid him in the opening sentences of this introductory, and the justness of which will be proved as we proceed.

During the latter part of the '30s Thomas Arnold was married to Rachel Moore in Hancock county, Ohio, and later took up their abode in the county of Delaware. There, on the 7th of December, 1840, John T. Arnold was born, and within six months after his advent into the world his mother was carried away by death. This first great misfortune was followed in a little over two years by another, the death of his father at that time leaving the child an orphan. Fortunately Elijah Galant, an uncle who lived in Delaware county, took charge of the boy and looked after his welfare until he grew to man's estate. When twenty years old he went to Columbus and learned the plasterer's trade, which furnished him occupation until 1864. In that year he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged. Previous to this, however, he had been a member of the militia, and in both branches of the service, during the short time he remained, endeavored to do his full duty as a soldier. February 18, 1864, Mr. Arnold was married, in Licking county, to Jane Lewis, and for awhile engaged in farming in Delaware county. In 1866 he came to Hancock county and located on land in Orange township, where he remained until 1875, and then removed to the farm on which he now resides. This tract, consisting of two hundred acres at the time Mr. Arnold took possession, was wet land, mostly covered with timber and required much ditching. The task of clearing the place and getting it into shape for cultivation was a heavy and expensive one, but Mr. Arnold managed to accomplish it in time by the hard work of himself and his employes. The soil is rich and productive, and under Mr. Arnold's management his land has been made one of the best farms of its size in that neighborhood.

Mrs. Arnold died January 17, 1897, after becoming the mother of eleven children, whose names are thus recorded in order of birth: Lizzie, wife of Miles Raston, of Morrow county, Ohio; Dellie M., who died June 16, 1895; Thomas, who died April 9, 1880; Samuel R.; James H.; Sarah G., wife of Ross Rockey; George W., who died July 14, 1880; Ida, who died January 1, 1880; Bertha A.; Hulda, who died February 7, 1883; and William J. Mr. Arnold cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and has ever since been a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He is a member of the Baptist church, and for many years was clerk of the sessions, always

taking much interest in the religious work. At one time he belonged to the Grange, keeps well posted on affairs relating to agriculture and altogether is an kindhearted, unassuming man, who enjoys general respect as a good neighbor and good citizen.

EDMUND C. TAYLOR.

To the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the resultant industries that grew therefrom on such a large scale, may be attributed the development of what may be called a new type of business men. The necessities of the case sharpened the wits, while enlarging the faculties, with the result that many of the most remarkable men of the country have owed their training to the exigencies of the great oil fields. The failures, of course, in that, as in all other lines of business, far exceed the successes, but those who were fortunate enough to be added to the latter list will generally prove, when found, to be the ruling spirits of their communities. These remarks will apply to several who have been mentioned in this volume, but to none with more force than to the gentleman whose career is herein outlined. In fact Mr. Taylor's whole life may be said to have been spent "in oil," though he himself will be the first to admit that the sailing was not always as smooth as the term would indicate. Almost from boyhood he has been connected in one way or another with the oil industry of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and none understand better than he all the "ins and outs," the advantages as well as the dangers of the fascinating road to wealth which leads through those mysterious subterranean channels where is formed the precious fluid that has revolutionized the world. Mr. Taylor is one of those who made a success of this business, acquired wealth by dint of much hard work and risky venture, and is now at the head of one of the leading financial institutions of Findlay.

Edmund C. Taylor was born in Ohio, September 2, 1851, attended the common schools as he grew up and rounded out his education at Oberlin College. Being ambitious for a business career and full of the ardor of youth, he could scarcely await the completion of his college career before venturing into the struggle for fortune with the hosts then engaged so strenuously in developing the Pennsylvania oil fields. He was twenty years old when he reached Oil City, then the center of the industry, and lost no time in becoming one of the throng who were making that town a hive of industry and speculative ventures. Mr. Taylor spent about eighteen months at Oil City, without any incident worthy of special mention, but regarding Butler county

as a better opening, he repaired to that section and there continued in the same line of business for six years. In 1878 he located at Bradford and opened a nitro-glycerine manufactory, which was conducted in connection with the "shooting" of wells for prospectors, and this highly dangerous business occupied him for seven years, during which time many of those associated with him lost their lives by contact with the explosive. But the "fittest survive," according to the Darwinian philosophy, and it was Mr. Taylor's good fortune to escape all the deadly dangers incident to his perilous occupation. From Bradford he transferred his scene of operations to Richburg, Pennsylvania, where he became an oil producer and prosecuted that branch of the business with vigor, and more or less success, from 1881 until 1886. In the latter year he decided to abandon the Pennsylvania for the Ohio fields, and in order to be in the center of activity, located at Findlay, where he immediately resumed operations with his usual energy and was connected with the first well drilled for oil in that region. During his residence of sixteen years in Hancock county Mr. Taylor has maintained his connection with the oil interests, but has found time to devote to other matters of importance for the public welfare. Among his contributions in this line was his service for many years as one of the gas trustees and his management of the Commercial Bank and Savings Company, to the presidency of which institution he was elected in January, 1901.

In 1889 Mr. Taylor was united in marriage at Findlay with Mrs. Grace Moore, whose maiden name was Ostermeyer, and their household is one of the social centers of the city. Mr. Taylor has long been conspicuous in Masonry, having risen to the thirty-second degree in that ancient order, and is also connected with the Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he has been a life-long Republican.

HARVEY RAINEY.

For sixty-three years Harvey Rainey traveled life's journey, and each year of that period was marked with good deeds and a record of an honorable career, and in the evening of life he received the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded those who live worthily, faithfully performing life's duties, and following their honest convictions of right and wrong. Harvey Rainey was a well known and respected representative of the agricultural class in Hancock county, residing for the greater part of the time in Big Lick township. He was born in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, August 13, 1834. At the age of fifteen years he left home and learned the

carpenter's trade under John Dickson, of Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, remaining with him six years. He then went to Wisconsin and Minnesota and worked at the carpenter's trade in both states for four years, when he came to Hancock county and worked at his trade here for about six years. In 1862 he located in Big Lick township, purchasing a farm of eighty acres. As he prospered later in life he made an addition to this original purchase of forty acres, located in Washington township, and again added a tract of one hundred acres to his real estate holdings, this time in Cass township. In early life Mr. Rainey learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in connection with farming in Hancock county, his system being to let his land out on the shares, while he engaged actively as a contracting carpenter, turning the result of his labors into more real estate. He gradually ceased his connection with the carpenter's trade, and in 1865 abandoned it entirely, after which he followed farming exclusively. Mr. Rainey combined many noble traits of character. He was a quiet, peaceful man, inoffensive as a child, a first-class farmer and a loyal citizen. He was a member in good standing in the Methodist Episcopal church, and voted with the Republican party. His marriage was celebrated with Miss Sarah A. Taylor, April 5, 1860. Miss Taylor was a daughter of William and Jane Taylor, and to the marriage were born five children, namely: Amanda J.; Charles W.; Mary A.; George B., deceased; and Alvin D. The death of the father of the family occurred December 23, 1897.

Mrs. Sarah A. Rainey was born in Washington township, September 14, 1841, and has resided in sight of her home all of her lifetime. Her parents, William and Jane Taylor, came to this township in 1838, being natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania. They were among the worthy pioneers of Hancock county, whose descendants fill the various walks of life acceptably. Both died at the age of seventy-two. Robert, the grandfather, born in County Down, Ireland, who was of the Protestant faith and a successful farmer, died at the age of eighty years. Martha, the grandmother of Mrs. Rainey, died when about seventy years old. Grandfather and Grandmother Bell were of Welsh descent and both died of old age.

HON. HENRY BISHOP.

Hon. Henry Bishop, deceased, was prominently identified with public affairs in early days and was a recognized leader in local politics. A native of Ohio, he was born in Franklin county, November 23, 1820, and in early manhood joined his brother, John D., in Hancock county. Learning the

Mr & Mrs J. S. Bishop

printer's trade in the office of the Courier at Findlay, he later purchased that paper and engaged in its publication from the 24th of January, 1839, until the 1st of July, 1845, but it did not prove a very profitable investment. He was a forcible though rather an illogical writer. Prior to disposing of the paper Mr. Bishop settled on a farm in Eagle township and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. In early life he engaged in teaching school for a few terms.

On the 5th of November, 1840, he was united in marriage to Miss Eve Smith, who was also born in Franklin county, May 21, 1821, a daughter of William Smith, and they became the parents of six sons, namely: George S., born July 1, 1842, died in Seneca county, Ohio, September 12, 1896; William is now living near Mt. Blanchard; John S. is mentioned below; Isaac lives on a part of the old homestead; Smith resides in Seneca county, two and a half miles northeast of Tiffin; and Henry Dixon is now serving as justice of the peace in Eagle township, Hancock county. The late John D. Bishop, our subject's brother, made his home in this county for many years. A sister, Polly, married Isaac Smith, a brother of our subject's wife, and they were the parents of Henry Smith, who is still living in Eagle township.

During his residence in Hancock county Mr. Bishop took quite an active and influential part in public affairs, and was elected to the state legislature at the same time Reuben Wood was made governor. Being somewhat eccentric he attended the sessions of that august body clad in a hunting shirt and leggins, but he was nevertheless a valued member of the house and was unwavering in his support of those measures which he believed would advance the general welfare. He died within sight of his home, June 18, 1855, being drowned in Eagle creek during high water while attempting to loosen driftwood. He got a cramp while swimming and went down. He left a widow and six sons, the oldest of whom was only thirteen years of age and the youngest one year old. Mrs. Bishop carefully reared her children, and as soon as they were old enough to be of any assistance to her they began to aid in the operation of the home farm. In 1871 she was again married, her second union being with Conrad Line, a farmer, who died in 1876. Two years after his death she returned to the old Bishop homestead, keeping her own part of the house and living independently until her death, which occurred October 24, 1896. She retained her faculties up to the last, being quite well preserved for one of her years. She was a faithful and consistent member of the old school Baptist church, was a strict Sabbatarian, and an active church worker. The sick and needy in her neighborhood always found in her a friend, and she was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew her. In 1863 she erected

a brick house upon her place, the brick being made upon the farm, but it was destroyed by fire in 1883. In addition to the old homestead, comprising two hundred and forty acres, she owned another farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Seneca county and in the management of the estate displayed excellent business and executive ability.

John S. Bishop, one of the leading agriculturalists and representative citizens of Eagle township, was born on the site of his present home, December 13, 1847, and his whole life has been spent upon that farm. He remained with his mother until her second marriage, when in partnership with his brother Isaac he bought the interests of the other heirs in the property, becoming owner of one hundred and twenty acres. Nineteen years ago he erected his present residence, which is located on the banks of Eagle creek five and a half miles south of Findlay. He is a progressive and practical farmer who thoroughly understands the vocation which he follows and is meeting with well deserved success in his operations. Besides his part of the old homestead he owns another farm in Jackson township and has city property in Findlay.

On the 4th of April, 1872, was celebrated the marriage of John S. Bishop and Miss Angeline A. Woodruff, a daughter of Elijah and Sarah (Walters) Woodruff, our subject's nearest neighbors. She was born on an adjoining farm, August 14, 1850, and was there reared, she and her husband being schoolmates. Unto them were born three children: Charley Cloyce, who died at the age of two years, one month and fifteen days; Sadie Blanche, now the wife of Henry Hartman, of Jackson township, by whom she has two children, John Durell and Clarence Harold; and Carrie Audra, who was educated in the Findlay high school and is still with her parents. Both daughters have studied music and the younger is quite an accomplished pianist and also a vocalist of more than ordinary ability. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Bishop is a little boy, Earl Bishop Newman, now nine years of age, who has made his home with them since the death of his mother during his infancy.

In his political views Mr. Bishop is a stanch Democrat, and though he takes an active interest in public affairs he has never been an aspirant for political honors, preferring to devote his undivided attention to his business interests. His estimable wife is a member of the Pleasant Grove United Brethren church, but he still adheres to his mother's teachings and in religious faith is a Baptist, although he is not connected with any church organization. That his life has been an upright and honorable one is shown by the fact that those who have known him from boyhood are numbered among his warmest friends.

HARVEY C. MILEY.

The gentleman above mentioned, at present one of the popular business men at Findlay, has had a varied experience as school teacher, real estate dealer and newspaper publisher, with a little office-holding on the side. Such occupations are necessarily educational if not especially profitable, and the training added to the information acquired is apt to prove useful in later life. At any rate Mr. Miley does not regret the time spent in "teaching the young idea how to shoot" nor his experiences as a "moulder of thought" while presiding over the sanctums of country newspapers. All this is behind him now, however, and he is intent only upon making a lasting success of his present business, which is that of real estate, insurance and loans, and those who know him best are of the opinion that he is apt to succeed in whatever he undertakes.

Harvey C. Miley was born near Wauseon, Ohio, in 1855, grew up on a farm and went through the usual experiences as to training and education that fall to the lot of boys in the country. This routine continued until he had reached the nineteenth year of his age, when he made his first venture in life as a teacher of a Fulton county school. He kept up this occupation in his native county about six years and then went to Kalkaska, Michigan, where for a year he was engaged in the real estate business. This he abandoned temporarily to accept the principalship of the school at Williamsburg, which position he held a year, and then took charge of the schools at Fife Lake, where he also spent a year. Leaving the school room permanently at the end of his term at Fife Lake, he opened a real estate and insurance office at that point and conducted the same for the following two years. His next move was to Boyne City, Michigan, where he continued the real estate business two years and then purchased the Boyne Citizen, a weekly independent newspaper, which he managed a year and a half. Disposing of this plant, Mr. Miley made another investment in the newspaper field by purchasing the Enterprise, a weekly publication at East Jordan, Michigan, but this he retained only six months and ended his career as an editor by a sale of the plant. In 1887 he came to Findlay, opened a real estate, insurance and loan office and since then has been well to the front in that line, to which he has devoted all his time and energy with satisfactory results.

In 1880 Mr. Miley was united in marriage with Mary E. Miller, of Fulton county, Ohio, and they have two children: Earl L., and Vera E. He is a Republican in politics, but aside from holding the city clerkship while a resident at Boyne City, Michigan, in 1884-5, he has occupied no official po-

sition. His religious affiliations are with the Church of Christ, and his fraternal connections with the Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JAMES DENNISON.

James Dennison, a native of the state of Ohio, and a veteran of the Civil war, is one of the early settlers of Hancock county, having lived in the county for over sixty years. Mr. Dennison was born in Plymouth, Ohio, in 1837, and lived there until he was four years of age, when he moved, with his parents to a farm in Union township, Hancock county, where he lived until he was ten years old. The family then moved to Findlay, Ohio, and ever since that time, Mr. Dennison has made his home there; at first, with his parents, and later, with his wife and children.

His father was Elihu Dennison, Jr., who was born in New York state in 1799, came to Ohio in 1821, and to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1841, finally settling in Findlay in 1847. He opened the first meat market ever in Findlay, and successfully carried it on until his death in 1858.

James Dennison was married in the year 1860 to Mary Louthan, who died in 1861. In July, 1863, feeling that his country needed his services, Mr. Dennison enlisted in the Union army at Findlay, Ohio, in Company L, First Regiment Ohio Heavy Artillery, as fifth sergeant, and a year later, was promoted to first sergeant, and served as such until mustered out at Knoxville, Tennessee, in August, 1865, after the great struggle for the preservation of the Union was ended. Although he served for over two years, Mr. Dennison was in no regular engagements, but was in several skirmishes with guerrillas in eastern Tennessee. After being mustered out when the war was ended, Mr. Dennison returned to Findlay, Ohio, and, choosing the trade which his father had followed all his life, he went into the butchering business, and still continues in it.

Mr. Dennison married again, in 1868, his present wife being Elizabeth (Spaith) Dennison, and they have eleven children, all living, five boys and six girls. Mrs. Dennison was born in Germany, emigrated to the United States at three years of age, and with her parents settled in Findlay a half century ago.

James Dennison's grandfather, Elihu Dennison, Sr., was born in New York state and died there before his son Elihu, Jr., James's father, came to Ohio. He was a farmer.

Mr. Dennison is honored and respected in the community in which he lives.

James Denison

He is an earnest Republican, sincere in his love of country and home, and as ready to work for their interests and welfare now, as he was when he entered the army in '63; but he merits the rest which should come with advancing years, and can leave the work for his boys. He belongs to Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R.

ROBERT B. RUSSELL.

Old men for wisdom, young men for action. We here present the name of one of the young and prosperous farmers who is aiding in maintaining the reputation held by the agricultural class of Hancock county. He resides in Big Lick township, where he owns a farm of eighty acres of valuable farming land, and upon which he has two producing oil wells.

Mr. Robert B. Russell claims nativity in the township in which he resides, where he was born May 13, 1865. He is the son of William Russell and Eliza Taylor. His life, which has been an uneventful one, has been passed in Hancock county. His education was received in the common schools of his own district. He was born and bred a farmer, and adopted that occupation as his life work. The vigorous manner in which he has conducted his farm has made him pre-eminently successful, and he bids fair to become one of the leading agriculturists of northern Ohio. The event of his life which he considers of most importance, occurred the day following Christmas of 1886, when he was joined in marriage to Miss Flora A. Stahl. Miss Flora was the daughter of J. F. and Mary Stahl, and is a lady of many accomplishments and of a refined and gentle nature. The happy union has been blessed with three beautiful children: Franklin L., November 1, 1887; Etta J., December 22, 1889; and William C., March 6, 1894. The family of which Mrs. Russell is a dutiful daughter is an old Buckeye family.

The family of which Robert B. Russell is an honored representative, have been for long years residents of the state of Ohio. William Russell, his father, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, April 14, 1826. Eliza Taylor, his mother, was a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, where she was born November 28, 1826. William Russell came to this county in 1840, when but a boy of fourteen years. When he grew to maturity he purchased ninety-four acres of land, to which he soon added enough to make three hundred and eighty-six acres. It was in two bodies, eighty acres being located in Putnam county, Ohio. William Russell was an active, energetic man in business, one of the practical kind of farmers, who looked closely after his own interests. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the

party of Lincoln suited him politically until the breaking out of the Civil war, at which time and for a period thereafter he gave his support to the Democracy. Later in life his convictions concerning the prohibition question were such that he turned towards that party and acted with it until his death. For some time he was a member of the Grange and was earnest in his efforts for its advancement. He held many of the offices of trust in his township, and for a number of years administered the duties of trustee. His marriage to Eliza Taylor occurred June 1, 1850, and there were nine children born to him, eight of that number now living: George, Martha J., John W., William T., Sara C., Alfred L., Robert B. and C. W. Mr. Russell is at present a resident of Findlay, having accumulated sufficient competence to live a retired life. His wife died some years ago. Her father, William Taylor, was a pioneer resident of Hancock county, where he married Cassandra Bell. The original entry of his land was made in 1835, shortly after they came to Hancock county. He was a native of Ireland. Their family consisted of eight children, three of whom still survive. They were highly respected in the community for their worth as good citizens.

WILLIAM FRANK SNIDER.

The Sniders constitute one of the oldest families in Hancock county, nor is its length of residence by any means its only recommendation. They have borne their full share of the burdens of development, have "held up their corner" at every trying conjuncture and have made a creditable showing in the business, social and political life of the county. In fact the oldest inhabitant cannot remember a time when the Sniders, individually and collectively, were not conspicuous figures in social circles. It was in 1835 that John Snider removed from York county, Pennsylvania, and purchased from Henry Litzenberger fifty-six acres of land lying in what is now Amanda township. John was industrious and was soon able to add twenty more acres to his original purchase, which, by a similar increase in 1860, eventually amounted to ninety-six acres, and this he cleared, fenced and generally improved until it was converted into a fertile and beautiful farm. All accounts agree in representing John Snider as a man of large heart, upright character and a model citizen in every respect. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and quite influential in religious circles, holding the position of trustee and class leader. Shortly after his arrival in Hancock county he was married to Eliza Treece, a native of Pickaway, and with her he settled down to housekeeping on his newly purchased farm. They had ten children,

of whom eight are living and six of them are residents of Hancock county. The father ended his active and useful life in 1888, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1862.

William F. Snider, one of the surviving children of the pioneer couple just described, was born in 1849, on the farm he now owns in Amanda township, Hancock county, Ohio. His education as well as his training was received within the confines of his native township, and during his whole career he has known no other regular pursuit than that of farming. In 1880 Mr. Snider joined with his brother Isaac in purchasing sixty-six acres of land, but eight years later disposed of his share to the fraternal partner and used the capital to buy the place on which he now resides. It consists of sixty-six acres of well improved land, on which Mr. Snider built in 1898 a handsome and commodious residence, which, with the addition of other modern improvements, makes this one of the coziest country homes in the county. Mr. Snider has served his township as trustee and was summoned as a member of the first jury that sat in the new court house at Findlay, whose term lasted forty-two days. In 1872 Mr. Snider was united in marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Josiah and Margaret Morehart, and the fruit of this union was an only son, born in 1878 and named Truman. The parents are devout members of the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Snider has been trustee for twenty-five years.

WILLIAM F. HOSLER.

This gentleman is the present efficient and popular cashier of the City Banking Company of Findlay, Ohio. He was born on a farm in Washington township, Hancock county, Ohio, on February 1, 1862. He passed the period of youth to the age of thirteen on the farm, receiving the ordinary education given in the country school. At that age he came to Findlay, Ohio, with his parents, where he had the advantages of better schools, and which he improved. Leaving school in 1878 he entered the office of the county treasurer as assistant and remained there until September, 1880, when he entered the employ of the Farmers' Bank as teller. In this position he served two years, and with such efficiency as to merit promotion to the assistant cashiership. He acted in this position until January 1, 1886, when the bank was made a national organization and our subject was made assistant cashier of this new organization. He served in this position as such until April 1, 1887, when he resigned and accepted the position of cashier of the City Bank of Findlay. He served in this relation until December 1, 1897, when the bank was reorganized and

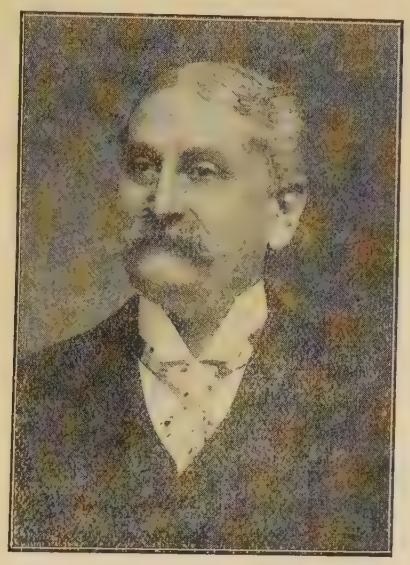
took its present name, the City Banking Company of Findlay, and our subject was made cashier of the new organization, and has continued to hold that position until the present time. Mr. Hosler began his married life in Findlay, Ohio, on October 7, 1885, when he was joined in marriage to Helen M., daughter of M. D. Shafer. Mr. Shafer died in June, 1899, in Findlay, at sixty years of age. He was born in Hancock county, was admitted to the Hancock county bar at the age of twenty-one, and for nearly forty years was a lawyer in this city. The mother of Mrs. Hosler was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, in 1842, and now resides in the city of Findlay. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hosler has been born one daughter, Mary L. Mr. Hosler is a popular citizen of Findlay, in which city he has a host of friends. Socially he affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and that other excellent order the B. P. O. E. Passing for a few moments now to the consideration of the family history of our subject, his father, Peter Hosler, was born in Pennsylvania in 1821, and came to Ohio in his boyhood with his father, Christopher Hosler, who located in Stark county, Ohio. They later removed to Hancock county, the year being about 1842. Prior to his removal to this county Peter Hosler married in Stark county, Ohio, Susana Sherman, to whom were born a family of twelve children. Peter Hosler was a contracting carpenter in his earlier life and later a farmer. He was a man of good character, of large influence in the county and in 1875 was elected treasurer of Hancock county on the Democratic ticket. In this office he served two terms. He was president of the Farmers' Bank and later of the Farmers' National Bank, and in 1887 was made president of the City Bank, which position he held at the time of his death in 1897.

In politics Mr. Hosler is a Democrat. He is a young man of excellent prospects, who will delight a large circle of friends by his continued success among them.

EDGAR A. HAWKINS.

The visitor to Findlay who registers at the Hotel Benton is sure of first-class entertainment, but he will enjoy additional pleasure if he cultivates the acquaintance of the gentlemanly manager who, though of quiet manners and unobtrusive demeanor, has seen much of the world and has some interesting stories to tell growing out of his personal experience. Mr. Hawkins served all through the Civil war in one of the fighting regiments, and many were the battles, skirmishes and engagements in which he took part during the long and bloody struggle between the north and the south. In civil life Mr. Hawkins

has made a record as a telegraph operator, which in point of time has probably not been surpassed by any other manipulator of the keys in this country. During those busy thirty years he gained and long retained the reputation of being one of the most rapid and accurate of all the operators in the service of the Western Union, and during this time he held positions of great responsibility at important railroad centers. The third stage in Mr. Hawkins's career has been as a hotel man, in which role he has been familiarly known for the last twelve years in connection with a number of prominent houses in various cities of Ohio and Indiana. The foregoing summary will be ample justification for the remark that Edgar A. Hawkins is an interesting man to know, and for the purpose of better introducing him to the traveling public and the readers of this volume this brief biographical sketch of his life and career has been arranged.



The family of this name originated in New York state, and from there Lafayette and Elizabeth (Smith) Hawkins removed in early life to Michigan, where they located in the county of Monroe. Subsequently they went to Lucas county, Ohio, where Mr. Hawkins was engaged for many years in the sawmill business at Maumee. His wife died in 1844, and his own death occurred four years later, both finding their final resting place in the cemetery at Petersburg, Michigan. At this town also their son, Edgar A. Hawkins, was born May 26, 1843, but he received his education chiefly in Ohio, and has been identified with this state during the larger part of his life. After attending school at Galion and Marion for some years he was graduated in the high school of the last mentioned city in 1858 and immediately entered into the occupation which he has chosen as his life work. As early as sixteen years of age he became proficient as a telegraph operator, and in 1860 was given charge of an office of the Bee Line Railway Company at La-Rue, Ohio. In April of the following year he was busy with his keys when his quick ear caught a message going over the wires which was the most momentous ever transmitted since Morse invented this wonderful means of communicating intelligence. The news of great moment which arrested the at-

tention of the young operator at LaRue and about the same time was sending a thrill throughout the length and breadth of this great nation was to the effect that the rebels congregated at Charleston harbor, under command of one P. T. Beauregard, had had the audacity to fire upon the flag of the United States as it floated over the battlements of Fort Sumter. That meant Civil war, and this awful fact was realized by every man and woman in the Union as soon as the news of the transaction at Charleston was floated over the wires. The young telegrapher at LaRue was not one to stand back when his country needed his services, and on the 12th of July, 1861, we find him enlisting at Marion as a member of the Fifth Regiment, Ohio Cavalry, in which he served during the nine following months and then obtained a transfer to Company G, Fifteenth Regiment Ohio Infantry. He remained with the latter command until June 8, 1865, his total service lacking one month of four years, and those who are familiar with the record of the old Fifteenth need not be told that those who staid with it had all the hard marching and fighting that could be desired by the most ambitious campaigner. This remark will be verified by an enumeration of the principal battles and engagements in which Mr. Hawkins took part with his regiment during the four years that elapsed after he left his little office at LaRue. This list includes Winchester, Fairfax Court House, Cheat River, Maryland Heights, Bolivar Heights, Martinsburg, all in Virginia; Bowling Green and Cumberland Gap, Kentucky; Stone River, Tullahoma, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Tennessee; Ringgold, Peach Tree Creek, Dug Gap, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta and Resaca, Georgia. Mr. Hawkins received a gun shot wound in the left leg at the last mentioned battle, but was ready for duty again after the expiration of three weeks in hospital. Then commenced that epoch-making military movement known in history as the march to the sea, during which Mr. Hawkins took part with his command in the fights at Savannah, Fort Fisher and Goldsborough, after which the conquering and united armies of the north proceeded on and made their triumphant entry into the national capital. The grand review, so often described and so well rememberd by every participant, closed the Civil war with a spectacular exhibition of patriotic pride and justifiable jubilation which made a fitting finale to the greatest tragedy of history. While his regiment was located at Savannah, Georgia, Mr. Hawkins was given a commission which promoted him to the rank of second lieutenant of his company, an honor well deserved as a result of his long and loyal service to the Union cause.

After the war Mr. Hawkins resumed his calling as a telegraph operator,

and continued it for many years, during which time he was stationed at various points throughout the west. For eighteen years he was traffic chief at Indianapolis, and in 1887 was sent by the Western Union to Wichita, Kansas, and remained there during the period of the famous "boom" at that place. At length, after terms of service which in all amounted to thirty years, Mr. Hawkins was compelled to drop his keys on account of what is called telegrapher's paralysis and seek other lines of employment. Entering the Hotel Cambridge at Lima, Ohio, he remained in the service of that popular hostelry for three years, and went from there to Frankton, Indiana, where he became an employe of the Altoona Hotel. He was afterward with the Kerr House at Marion, Ohio, the Grand Hotel at Indianapolis and the Morscher House at Tiffin, until finally he took charge as manager of the Benton at Findlay and has since retained that position.

In 1867 Mr. Hawkins was married to Miss Katie Rhodes, who died a year later, and in 1872 he was united with his second wife, in the person of Miss Ella Wood, who died July 23, 1889, after becoming the mother of two children, Harry W. and Edna N. The political affiliations of Mr. Hawkins have always been Republican, and by virtue of his military service he is a member of Mart Armstrong Post, No. 202, Grand Army of the Republic, at Lima. The thousands who have come in contact with Mr. Hawkins in a business way, as telegrapher operator or hotel manager, have always found him a courteous and obliging gentleman, and this reputation he has fully maintained since taking charge of the Benton.

ROBERT L. LEONARD.

Robert L. Leonard, a prominent and well known farmer of Big Lick township, owning and operating one hundred acres of well cultivated soil, was born in the township in which he resides, August 4, 1854. Here he was reared in the old homestead, which continued to be the scene of his boyhood labors and pleasures until his maturity, and during the meantime he became familiar with the curriculum of studies covered by his home school. He remained on his father's farm for several years after his majority, his first real estate purchase being in 1875 and consisting of ten acres. This was soon increased by seventeen acres donated to him by his father. These small holdings he continued to improve, and in due time sold at a good figure, with the proceeds of which he purchased the first sixty acres of his present farm. He cultivated this until 1901, when he added the remaining forty acres. On this farm he has erected suitable and commodious buildings of modern construction, which

add much to the pleasing prospect. The marriage of our subject occurred in this county in 1875, he being joined to Sarah A., the daughter of John and Polly A. Kinsel. To this happy union were born three childreen: John A., a telegraph operator in Findlay, Ohio; Fred S. and Estella G. Fred S., the youngest son, has taken up agriculture as his vocation, and is now working the home form. The mother of these children was born in Big Lick township, being a member of one of the noted pioneer families of the early day. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which body he is a class leader and also a trustee. The religious life of Mr. Leonard has always been exceedingly active. There has never been a time when he has not been connected with the public life of his church in some particular. He has served long years as superintendent of the Sunday-school, and is at the present time advancing his interests in the important place of chorister. He is a man who carries out well the doctrines he believes in his every day life without the sound of trumpet or the display of banner. Fraternally he is a member of the order of Ben Hur.

Samuel B. Leonard, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, March 27, 1815. His grandfather was Robert Leonard, Sr., and his grandmother, Frances Bayless, both of whom were also natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania. At the close of the war of 1812 they removed to Columbiana county, Ohio, where they resided until 1837. At that date they came to Hancock county, where they purchased a half section of land in Big Lick township. This he divided between his two sons, Samuel B. and Silas. His family consisted of six children, four sons and two daughteers. He later made provisions for his sons William K. and Abner. The daughters were Elizabeth and Mary A. The parents were members of the Presbyterian church, and were the means in their day of the establishment of what is now known as the Enon Valley Presbyterian church. He was exceedingly strict with his children and looked well to their moral development. He reared them in accordance with the divine injunction "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." He died in 1867, mourned by a devoted family and a large circle of friends. The wife had died some years previously, about 1854.

Samuel B. Leonard was reared on the home farm, received his early education in Columbiana county, and removed with his wife to Hancock county in 1836, his parents coming here a year later. He continued his residence on the same farm which he received from his father up to 1901. He was united in marriage to Miss Isabelle Curry in February, 1836. To this union there were born three children, Elizabeth F., John C. and Robert L.

John C., who was a member of Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was captured at the battle of Chickamauga and spent a period at Libby prison, from which he was removed to Danville and finally to that dreadful den at Andersonville, where he was starved to death. The date is not known. Elizabeth is the wife of C. Garber, elsewhere sketched in this volume. Samuel B. Leonard has been connected with the Methodist Episcopal church for over sixty years. In that time he has been very active in the service of the Master, having served a continuous period of over fifty years as class leader. His wife is a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, born November 29, 1815. It will be of interest to mention in connection with this family sketch that the first husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Garber, Absalom Kleckner, was a member of Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Stone River. He was sent home and buried with military honors.

It is hardly necessary to add that Robert L. Leonard and his family have the entire confidence of the community in which they reside, in which they are useful and loyal citizens.

JOHN W. S. RIEGLE.

The above named gentleman has succeeded well in the popular profession adopted in youth, having served two terms as surveyor of Hancock county, and now being the city engineer of Findlay. His thorough education at the beginning, especially in mathematics, supplemented by subsequent practical experience, has so qualified Mr. Riegle as to give him standing as an expert in his calling, and one of the best civil engineers of his age in the state. He has given entire satisfaction by his work, both in public and private capacities, and being yet in the prime of life a successful and even brilliant future would seem to be before him.

John W. S. Riegle, son of Elias and Catherine Riegle, was born at Arlington, Hancock county, Ohio, July 29, 1866, and received his training as well as his education in Madison township. Mr. Riegle, however, was desirous of something more than could be acquired in the country schools, so after leaving the latter he entered the Normal University at Ada, where he took a thorough course and was graduated with the class of 1887. Still unsatisfied, Mr. Riegle subsequently took a post-graduate course in mathematics at Findlay College, after which he taught school several years in Hancock county. His first venture in the line of his profession was as civil engineer in the employment of the Ohio Central Railroad Company, with which

he continued two years and did such satisfactory work as to receive commendation from his superiors. This performance led to promotion, as in 1890 he was nominated and later elected to the office of surveyor of Hancock county. He discharged the duties of this position so thoroughly and satisfactorily that by general consent he was given the renomination of his party and had little difficulty in securing a reelection in 1893. After serving two terms in this office, amounting in all to a period of six years, Mr. Riegle was appointed city engineer of Findlay in 1896 and has since discharged the duties of that place with entire acceptability.

In 1894 Mr. Riegle was married at Marysville, Ohio, to Miss Lorinda A., daughter of John and Susan Smalley, and their only son is named John William McKinley Riegle. After stating this fact it is hardly necessary to add that the father's political predilections are decidedly Republican, and he is usually at the front in campaign times among the most zealous workers for his party. His only fraternal connection is with the Masonic order.

ISAAC INSLEY.

The above named gentleman, whose postoffice address is Macomb, Ohio, is one of the thriving farmers of Hancock county, owning one hundred and thirty-eight acres of well cultivated land in Portage township devoted to general farming. It is only necessary to look over this farm to see that the owner understands his business and deserves to rank with those whose enterprise and progressive spirit have given Ohio such high rank among the agricultural states. His father, Zacharias Insley, a native of Ashland county, Ohio, wedded Esther Sowards of Virginia, and after marriage resided in his native county for some years, removing in 1870 to Hancock county. He purchased one hundred and forty acres of land in section 21 of Portage township, which at the time was in a fair state of cultivation. Being an industrious and practical farmer he prospered measurably and in the course of years made his farm one of the most desirable of its size in his neighborhood. He was a moral and upright man, a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal church and so bore himself as to earn general esteem. He died in 1892 and his wife two years later, having become the parents of twelve children, of whom eight grew to maturity and six are still living. Among the latter is Isaac Insley, whose birth occurred in Seneca county, Ohio, April 29, 1837, and there he grew to manhood. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served gallantly and loyally until the close of the Civil war.

Among the important battles in which Mr. Insley participated were those at Winchester, Cedar Creek, Lynchburg, James River, Petersburg and Appomattox Court House, not to mention the innumerable skirmishes which fell to the lot of the command to which he belonged. The fact that he was detailed as a sharpshooter is evidence of Mr. Insley's high standing as a soldier and the estimate put upon his prudence and bravery by his commanding officers. More than once a commission was offered to him, but this Mr. Insley declined, being satisfied to do his duty as a soldier in the ranks. After a most creditable military career, during which he made a faultless record, this brave young soldier was honorably discharged from the service in 1865.

Isaac Insley was thirty-three years of age when his parents located in Hancock county. Eight years previous to this he had purchased about sixty acres of land in Portage township, to which he subsequently added until his entire holdings amounted to one hundred and thirty-eight acres. This land land he has cultivated most industriously and intelligently since taking possession and his affairs have been generally prosperous. In September, 1870, Mr. Insley married Elizabeth A. Smith, who was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, November 10, 1848. Her parents were John W. and Catherine Smith, the former born May 15, 1815, and the latter in Virginia, October 25, 1804. In 1851 they removed to Hancock county and some years later located on a farm of eighty acres which Mr. Smith had purchased in Pleasant township. On this home place they both ended their days after useful lives, during which they played their parts well and earned general esteem. The union of Isaac and Elizabeth A. Insley proved both happy and fruitful, their children numbering nine, of whom seven are living. These, with the dates of their respective births, are thus recorded in the family Bible: J. W., in 1871; Albert M., in 1873; Cora B., in 1875; Rosetta M., in 1878; Harley L., in 1882; George R., in 1887; and Lester R., in 1895. In addition to her husband's property, Mrs. Insley owns thirty-six acres in her own right. Besides her virtues as a housewife and mother, she is a lady of excellent judgment and good business qualities. Including both parents and children, the Insleys constitute a worthy and deserving family.

GEORGE B. RUMMELL.

A native of the county of Hancock, Ohio, and a descendant from one of the pioneer settlers of the state is George B. Rummell, who was born at Findlay, Ohio, in 1868, and was there reared and educated, and has lived there all his life, with the exception of about three years, 1893, 1894 and 1895, which

he spent at Ottawa, Ohio. After leaving school in Findlay, Ohio, Mr. Rummell entered the Ohio Veterinary College at Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated from there in 1893. After leaving the college he decided to locate at Ottawa, and resided there for three years, but learning that there was an opening for a livery stable at Findlay, he returned to his native town in January, 1896, and opened up in the livery business, which he now carries on, and for which he is peculiarly fitted, being a great lover of good horses, and thoroughly understanding their control and management and never so happy as when, holding the lines over one of his high steppers, he takes a friend for a spin along the drive. Mr. Rummell is a member of the County Agricultural Board of Hancock county, Ohio, where his knowledge of a good horse is well known and highly appreciated. Socially he belongs to the Odd Fellows, and in politics is an active Republican and interested in the welfare of his party.

Mr. Rummell's father, David Rummell, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1828, and after a useful and industrious life spent at his chosen work, he died in December, 1896. He was a furniture dealer, and was also the father of W. R. Rummell, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume.

George B. Rummell was married in Findlay, Ohio, in 1888, to Etta, daughter of C. B. Struve, of Toledo, Ohio, and they are the parents of two children, as follows: Earl D., born in 1890, and Harry B., born in 1897. Mr. Rummell is progressive and energetic, happy in his home and prosperous in his business, a worthy citizen of Findlay, Ohio, and known and respected throughout Hancock county.

HENRY BYAL.

To have attained to the extreme fulness of years and to have one's view broadened to a comprehension of all that has been accomplished within the flight of many days, is of itself a sufficient cause for a consideration of such a life, but in the case at hand the tribute is all the more merited from the fact that it concerns a career of usefulness, of exalted honor, of charity, and one never darkened by wrong or injustice. It must ever be regarded as a matter of regret that when an aged man of historical importance has been gathered to his father's later generations have not been given a more intimate knowledge of his personality and his actions; that the lips have been silenced which might have told of incidents that had marked bearing on the thought and action of scenes of the past; and that there is denied a familiarity with the ambitions and struggles of his youth and the more crucial trials of his later

L. J. Eaton Byal

Henry Byal

years. It is thus gratifying to enter a tribute to this venerable and honored citizen of Hancock county and to note the salient points in his long and useful life, whose declining days are crowned with well earned prosperity.

Grandfather William Byal was a native of Maryland and died in 1840 when at the age of sixty-seven years; his son, John Byal, was also born in that state in 1791 and died in 1853. These are the forebears of Henry Byal, and it is evident that the family were established in this country during the colonial epoch. The birth of Henry Byal occurred in Stark county, Ohio, March 23, 1817, thus being a representative of one of the pioneer families of the Buckeye state. He remained in his native county, at an early day began to contribute his share to the work of the farm, and attended the country school as opportunity offered, although his educational training was very meagre after he was fifteen years old. In March, 1832, his father brought him to Hancock county, locating in Findlay township about three miles west of the city of the same name; he erected a saw mill there and two years later built a grist mill. There young Byal lived and labored for about seven years; he then secured employment in connection with the construction of the Wabash canal and during the ensuing winter worked on the St. Mary's reservoir in Mercer county. Until he was twenty-five years old he was engaged in various occupations. At that age he was married and after that he was employed on a farm in this county for four years. He was continually forging ahead in the world and his next venture was in the merchandising business in Ottawa, Putnam county, where he remained for eighteen months and also served as postmaster. He next engaged in business at Pendleton, Putnam county, where he continued for three years, and in 1853 came to Findlay. From this time up to the present he has been actively concerned in farming, has accumulated much valuable real estate in the county and has now retired from active affairs and enjoys the repose and freedom from care which are the rewards of toil.

Mr. Byal was elected to the office of justice of the peace in 1854; he was the candidate of the Democratic party and his personal popularity is shown in the fact that he overcame the usual Republican majority of about six hundred. He held this office for nine years and was one of the excellent public officials of the county during that period. For many years Mr. Byal has been a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, and has always been generous in aiding its work. Mr. Byal's first marriage occurred in March, 1842, to Dorothy Comer, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio. Her parents were Isaac and Hannah (Culp) Comer. Her father was born in the Shenandoah valley in Virginia in 1793, and died September 3, 1852, on the farm three miles west of Findlay, while her mother was born in Fairfield county, Ohio,

as far back as 1803, and died on the old Comer farm in 1830. Isaac Comer married for his second wife Hannah Burton, with whom he came to Hancock county from Lancaster, Fairfield county, in 1832. Four children were born to Mrs. Dorothy (Comer) Byal, but she died in 1860, and all of her children have also passed away. As a memorial to his family Mr. Byal bequeathed the munificent sum of twenty thousand dollars, with which the Byal Memorial Chapel was completed in 1901, a beautiful tribute to those whom he loved so well. In 1861 Mr. Byal took as his second wife Mary Lamb, who was his faithful companion for thirty years, and passed away in 1900, leaving no children. On February 7, 1901, Mr. Byal became the husband of Lydia J. Eaton, who is his devoted partner for the remainder of life's journey. She has been engaged for forty years at Findlay in the mercantile and millinery trade.

JOHN B. HEIMHOFER.

The above named gentleman, during his life of less than forty years, has achieved a notable success in various lines of business, including those of oil producing, farming, banking and mining. He comes from an old Swiss family, both his grandfather and parents being natives of the famous Alpine republic. The latter, whose names were John M. and Agatha (Miller) Heimhofer, married in Switzerland and had three children: John B.; Fred H. and Ida. John B. Heimhofer, the eldest son, was born in Switzerland in 1863 and when still quite young was brought to America by his parents, who located in what was then Luzerne, now Lackawanna county, Pennsylvania. The father became interested in the oil business, then a leading industry in the Keystone state, and one in which his son was destined later to achieve success. The latter attended a select school at Archibald and by the time he was seventeen years old had acquired a fair education. About that time he accompanied his parents to McKean county, and the family found a location at the little oil town of Red Rock, where our subject remained and worked about two years in the butchering business. He soon abandoned this, however, to engage in teaming in the oil field and soon realizing the possibilities for profitable investment in this line he lost no time in seeking connection therewith. In partnership with his brother Fred and E. V. Wyssbrod, Mr. Heimhofer purchased a lease in McKean county, and the firm entered vigorously into the business of oil producing. On the original lease, and others subsequently obtained, they owned in all about eleven wells. Eventually, the partners disposed of all their holdings in Pennsylvania and transferred their scene of operations to Ohio. In November, 1886, they opened a

hardware store in Findlay under the firm name of Wyssbrod & Co., which continued business about three years, meantime resuming their original occupation of oil producers. After the dissolution of the mercantile partnership, Mr. Heimhofer continued in the production of oil on his own account, and in 1899 bought a farm which he has since operated. Together with his brother Fred and E. V. Wyssbrod, he is also interested in zinc mines at Joplin, Missouri, and mineral lands in Arkansas.

When the Commercial Bank and Savings Company was organized at Findlay in 1901, Mr. Heimhofer was elected vice president, a position which he still retains. He is also a director in the Toledo Times, a daily morning paper, published in the famous lake port at the mouth of the Maumee.

In October, 1898, was solemnized the marriage of John B. Heimhofer and Miss Rosetta, daughter of R. W. Boyd, all of Findlay, Ohio. Two children have been born of this union, John Russell and Bessie M., of whom the former died in infancy. Mr. Heimhofer has served one term in the city council of Findlay as a representative of the Republican party, and his fraternal connections are confined to membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His standing in the business world is amply demonstrated by the important positions to which he has been chosen and socially himself and family have the entree to the best society of Findlay.

JOHN L. KISSEBERTH.

Among the younger generation of farmers who have been operating during the last two decades in Hancock county, the above mentioned has taken rank as one of the most progressive and deserving. He owns a handsome farm in Blanchard township, which he has managed and cultivated in such a way as to show that he is a complete master of his business and is not unworthy of comparison with the wideawake farmers for which Hancock county is noted. He is the son of Gabriel and Elizabeth Kisseberth, who were at one time residents of Hancock county, where the former owned and operated fifty acres of farming land. Later he removed to Putnam county and carried on a mercantile business at Gilboa, but at present is residing at Fostoria, where he leads a retired life. His first wife, Elizabeth, died August 2, 1861, and subsequently he was again married to the lady who now shares his home in retirement.

John L. Kisseberth, son of the first marriage, was born in Gilboa, in Putnam county, May 10, 1859, and received his education in the schools of his native place and Hancock county. After he grew up he entered his

father's store, where in the capacity of clerk he assisted for several years in conducting the business. When he reached the age of twenty-one, however, he decided to abandon the mercantile for agricultural life, a step which was preceded by the selection of a partner to share his joys and sorrows. August 1, 1880, he was united in marriage with Miss America B., daughter of B. B. and Elizabeth Powell, substantial farmers of Hancock county, where the family had long been established. Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Kisseberth purchased from his father-in-law the seventy-nine acres of land which constitute his present homestead in Blanchard township, and to the management of which he has since devoted all his time. He has made many improvements, chief among which was the erection of buildings suitable for his business, and the place is now attractive in appearance, everything indicating good management and orderly arrangement.

Mr. and Mrs. Kisseberth have had four children: Jessie V., Charles F., Edwin L. (deceased) and Lewis C. Jessie V., the eldest daughter, is now the wife of Aaron Slupe, a farmer of Pleasant township. Mr. and Mrs. Kisseberth are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in all matters concerning the work of that extensive denomination. As a farmer, Mr. Kisseberth is up-to-date in all his operations, practical in his methods and believes in keeping up with all modern improvements. He devotes himself to general agriculture, cultivating all the standard crops and raising the usual variety of stock found on Ohio farms. He does not branch out into experiments or "fads" but adheres to the safe system which experience shows is productive of the best results.

MILLARD C. COWLEY.

For twelve years the gentleman whose name appears as the subject of this sketch has been the agent at Findlay for the United States Express Company. This is a position which brings its occupant into close and frequent contact with the public, and his personality, as well as his business qualifications, are subject to close scrutiny and criticism. Few positions require more evenness of temper, self-possession and urbanity in the discharge of its duties, and only those men well equipped with the qualities mentioned will meet the requirements satisfactorily. Mr. Cowley, however, by his long tenure has evidently "filled the bill," and the reasons therefor are well understood by the people of Findlay whose affairs take them to the express office. Mr. Cowley understands how to dispatch business expeditiously as well as courteously, and by his general bearing has obtained the respect as well as the friendship

of the city's entire population. He comes of excellent stock and traces his lineage through an ancestry that was always loyal and patriotic during the "days that tried men's souls." Jonathan Cowley, his grandfather, was born in Ireland in 1752 and thirteen years later came to America with his father, St. Leger Cowley, who located in Scoharie, Delaware county, New York. About eleven years after the arrival of these Scotch-Irish emigrants in the then colonies, the great American Revolution began in the war for independence and the Cowleys, true to the instincts of their race, espoused the cause of liberty. St. Leger Cowley was appointed adjutant of the Fifth New York Regiment of Continental troops and his son Jonathan joined the same command as a private. Both fought gallantly through all the seven years of that terrible conflict, and participated in the many dangers, privations and trials which fell to the soldiers who were making the fight for freedom.

After reading the foregoing record of honorable service at the period when the great republic had its birth, none will deny that our subject has a clear title to membership in the patriotic order of the Sons of the American Revolution. He does not, however, rest his claim for consideration upon ancestry, but what he has been able to do himself and he has certainly proved by his conduct that he is not an unworthy son of worthy sires. Millard C. Cowley was born at Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, in 1851, but was taken later by his parents to Addison, New York, where he was reared and educated. This New York town continued to be his home until he had reached the age of twenty-six and his mature years were spent in work upon the farm until 1874. In that year he was offered and accepted a position as clerk in the office of the Erie Railroad Company at Addison. He remained in this employment for six years and during that time received the training and obtained the experience which fitted him for the duties which he has since so well performed in his chosen vocation. In 1880 Mr. Cowley went to Allentown as agent for the United States Express Company but only remained there six months, being transferred to Elmira in the same state to become joint agent for the United States and Adams Express Companies at the union station. He held this position until 1886, when he was sent to Olean, New York, to take charge of the business at that point of the United States Express Company. After an experience of three years in this location, Mr. Cowley was transferred by his employes to Ypsilanti, Michigan, and remained their agent there until 1890, when he came to Findlay as agent of the United States Express Company and has ever since continued to represent that corporation at this point. The best evidence of a man's efficiency is long continued employment by the same people, especially when the employers are of the exacting kind found at

the head of all great business corporations, whose immense interests and countless ramifications can only be satisfactorily attended to by trained and expert talent. Such a man has evidently been found in the person of Mr. Cowley and not only by continuous retention but in many other ways he has received evidence of the esteem and approval of his superiors. October 1, 1902, Mr. Cowley was promoted to the position of route agent for the company in the second division, comprising the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, with headquarters at Findlay.

While residing in Addison, New York, in 1877, Mr. Cowley was united in marriage with Miss Nellie M. Mullen, a worthy young lady of that city, and their union has been blessed by the birth of one daughter, Florence M. The family are members of the Presbyterian church and enjoy cordial relations with the best society of Findlay.

DAVID SHERICK.

David Sherick, retired farmer, has spent almost his entire life in agricultural pursuits, and only put away the plow and laid down the hoe within the last two or three years, when, feeling old age creeping on him, he decided to move into town, and enjoy some of the comforts for which he had labored so long and industriously. It is the men who, like David Sherick, have worked early and late, year in and year out, tilling the soil and feeding the cattle, who have given Ohio the proud name which she bears of being such a great agricultural state and have enabled her to rank so high in this respect.

David Sherick was born on a farm in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1831, where he lived until he was twenty-two years of age. His childish memories take him back to the days of log school houses, and wide open stretches of country,—country which looked just as fertile in those days, but which as yet had not been under cultivation, for settlers were few and far between in those times, and Ohio was one of the new states which had been carved out of the Northwest territory some years before. Mr. Sherick lived the life of the average farmer's boy, in the winter time attending school and looking after the cattle, and in the summer, plowing and harvesting the grain. When he was twenty-two he left the home farm and started out in life for himself, going to Liberty township, Hancock county, where he bought a farm and built him a home, and a little later, brought a wife, and there they toiled and saved, taking life a little easier as the years went by, and the children grew up and shared their burdens; and finally, in 1899, they moved into Findlay to spend the remainder of their days.

Mr. Sherick was married December 28, 1854, in Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, to Catherine, daughter of George Heck, and they have had nine children, of whom seven are now living, as follows: Peter; Barbara, wife of T. C. Boyd; Martha, wife of R. M. Poe; Irene, wife of N. L. Acocks; Emma, wife of I. L. McGee; John H., and Maud. Mr. Sherick is a member of the Church of God, and in his politics has been a life-long Republican.

Our subject's father was Peter Sherick, born in Fayette count, Pennsylvania, December 5, 1798, and died June 14, 1886. He, too, was a "tiller of the soil," and our subject, David was his only son. Our subject's grandfather was Christian Sherick, who was born in Pennsylvania and died there. The Sherick family is of German descent.

Mr. Sherick has lived a useful and industrious life, has managed his business affairs with intelligence and is now one of the prosperous farmers of the community, taking his well earned rest and enjoying the society of his children and friends.

HENRY STOUGH.

Henry Stough, a prosperous farmer and dairyman, residing in Cass township, Hancock county, Ohio, owns here a valuable farm of one hundred and thirty-nine acres and carries on extensive farming operations in conjunction with a very profitable dairy business.

The birth of Henry Stough was on April 12, 1844, in Ashland county, Ohio, and he is a son of George and Catherine Stough, who came to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1853, when Henry was nine years of age. George Stough was born on the Monongahela river, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, on March 27, 1815, and he was a son of Moses and Mary (Riddle) Stough, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former being a son of George Stough, of German descent. Moses Stough removed from Pennsylvania to Ashland county, Ohio, in 1818, when his son George was three years old. By trade he was a cooper and this trade he followed during the years of his active life, and died in Allen township, this county, at the age of eighty-three years.

As mentioned George Stough came to Hancock county in 1853, and here became a practical and successful farmer. He was a man of exemplary life and character and was much respected and beloved in his locality, universal regret being felt when his death occurred in June, 1898. His marriage was to Catherine Gierhart, and they had a family of ten children, the survivors being: Eliza, Daniel, Henry and Christian.

Henry Stough, our subject, attended school in his early years, as opportunity offered. He has always been more interested in agricultural pursuits than in anything else and has succeeded most admirably in his labors. In 1867 he purchased his present farm and has since then been engaged in its development.

December 14, 1865, he was married to Susannah, daughter of Josiah and Mary Shafer, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1846, and was an infant in her mother's arms when she entered Hancock county. She had three brothers in the Civil war, Hiram, Mordecai and Samuel, the two first named belonging to the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and the last named to a Kansas regiment. Each served his country long and well and were honorably discharged.

The children born to our subject and wife were but two in number, Henrietta and William. The latter died in boyhood, his death being indeed a sad blow to his parents, as he promised to grow into a most estimable man. Henrietta married G. E. Watchtel, and they have two children,—Merle and Corinne. Mrs. Stough died August 3, 1902.

Mr. Stough is one of the much respected citizens of his township and is known for his excellent farming and fine methods of dairying, over a large part of this section. He keeps twenty-five cows for milk, of a breed noted for its richness of cream and milk, and his output finds a very ready sale. In politics Mr. Stough is a Democrat.

ABRAHAM BROWN.

This honored and prominent representative of the farming and stock-raising interests of Hancock county is one of the successful men in that line of business. His pleasant and commodious home is situated in Washington township, where he conducts a farm of one hundred and forty acres, where he is possessed of all that a prosperous farmer needs to satisfy every wish. He is the son of Martin and Catherine (Leady) Brown, the father having located in Washington township in about 1835, on his farm of about one hundred and sixty acres. Both Martin Brown and his wife were natives of the Keystone state, where they married, and soon removed to Knox county, Ohio, locating in Hancock county, Ohio, in the year above stated. He was a hard working and industrious man, clearing all his land, as did many other pioneers in that early day, and combining good sound business judgment with fine physical health and a will to labor, he became a very successful representative of the farming interests. He was an honest and up-

ABRAHAM BROWN. MRS. ABRAHAM BROWN.

JOHN BROWN.

CHARLES BROWN. MRS. CHARLES BROWN.

CHARLES VOITLE. MRS. CHARLES VOITLE.

ROBERT VOITLE.

right man in all of his dealings with his neighbors, was a member of the German Baptist church, and in politics favored the policies of the Republican party. The family that was born to him consisted of ten children, nine of whom are living at this writing and three of this number reside in Hancock county, as follows: Mrs. Elizabeth Meyers, Mrs. Sarah Jacobs, and Abraham Brown, the immediate subject of this sketch.

Mr. Brown passed his early boyhood in the exacting labor of farm life in that early day, and received his primary education in the district school of his native township. As a lad he performed the duties required of a boy of his size on his father's farm, and developed that sturdiness of character which generally attaches to the ordinary country youth. When that dreadful calamity which cast a dark cloud over the face of our country, occurred, the firing on Fort Sumter, Abraham Brown was not old enough to do duty in the field, but his young mind was in close sympathy with the cause of Old Glory. As the months sped on and the cloud darkened, Mr. Brown became matured by sheer patriotism and in September, 1862, willingly gave himself a sacrifice to his country, serving the remaining three years of the war. He enlisted as a private in Company A, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and which regiment became a part of the Army of the Cumberland. He followed the flag through twenty-three general engagements, besides participating in a large number of lesser battles and skirmishes. Following is a brief mention of the principal actions in which he was engaged: Stone River, Chickamauga (where he lost the second finger of his left hand), Resaca, Bald Knob, Kenesaw Mountain and Atlanta. He participated in that thrilling and victorious march of the man who denominated war as "hell," and returning north on the victorious march of that chieftain, he was mustered out at Louisville and returned to his home with the consciousness of having performed his whole duty to his beloved country. During the services he was promoted from the private ranks for meritorious services on the field to duty sergeant. He received an honorable discharge and was paid off at Columbus, Ohio, in July, 1865. Mr. Brown took up the thread of life just where it had been broken when he went to the army. Returning to his school and to his books, he fitted himself for a future life of usefulness. Upon leaving school the first business in which he became interested was in the line of dry goods at West Independence. It was here that Mr. Brown chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Rebecca A. Newhouse, the marriage occurring in the year 1868. Three children came to brighten their home: John C., born in 1869; Abbie A, 1871; and Charles M., in 1879. This latter boy inherited the patriotism of his father and offered himself to his country in its late unpleasantness with Spain. He

enlisted for two years in Company H, Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was a faithful soldier and was honorably discharged at Macon, Georgia. The mother of this family, Miss Rebecca Brown, was born in Washington township, Hancock county, in 1851. She has proved to her husband a faithful companion and helpmate in life's journey, and her sound advice and assistance were important factors in his prosperity.

Mr. Brown takes an active part in politics, and while he is a stanch Republican, he will not tolerate what he thinks is an act of duplicity on the part of his colleagues. About 1875, when his own party leaders displeased him, he formed a new party in his own township, known as the Farmers' Alliance. This was subsequently merged into the People's Party, a convention of this party having been held under the leadership of Mr. Brown in 1896, in Arcadia. Owing to his masterful direction, this movement was successful until 1896, when it was absorbed by the Democratic party, at which time and date our subject returned to his old love, the Republican party, and of which he is now a stanch supporter.

Mr. Brown is a man much above the average intelligence, and a promoter and supporter of many progressive and commendable enterprises. He has paid a marked tribute to the rural mail free delivery in the erection of two beautiful and conspicuous pillars, one on either side of his gateway. On each of these pillars is painted a figure, one representing "Uncle Sam," and the other "Abe" Brown. Mr. Brown enjoys the full confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and well deserves representation in this volume.

WILLIAM MONTGOMERY.

The ancestry of the family of this name, which for more than half a century has been identified with the agricultural development of Orange and Van Buren townships, is given in the sketch of John Montgomery, which appears on another page of this volume. It is there told how they descended from an Irish emigrant who fought in the Revolutionary war and left descendants in western Pennsylvania, who later settled in eastern Ohio. William Montgomery, above mentioned, is a brother of John and was the eighth of the twelve children born to William and Sarah (Fouts) Montgomery after their settlement in Columbiana county in the early part of the last century. His birth occurred on his father's pioneer farm in the hills of eastern Ohio, April 17, 1833, and he remained in that section until he had reached his majority. As his brothers had migrated to Hancock some years before, he naturally followed in their wake, hoping for better opportunities than were

afforded in his native locality. In 1854 he arrived in Hancock county, and for a short time worked on his brother Albert's farm in Orange township, and continued to work as a farm laborer for different parties during the next two years. A family by the name of Brannan had come from Trumbull county, Ohio, and taken up land in Orange township, and among their children was a daughter named Elizabeth. She was a child at the time of her arrival, and was reared and educated in her new home in Hancock county. In 1855 William Montgomery and Elizabeth Brannan were united in marriage, and lived together as man and wife for nearly forty years in utmost affection and harmony. For a while after marriage the young couple lived in Orange township, but in 1860 Mr. Montgomery bought land in section 36, Van Buren township, to which they soon removed and commenced the difficult task of clearing. It was situated in the woods, was wholly unimproved and to any one not possessed of the pioneer spirit would have presented anything but a pleasing prospect. Mr. Montgomery, however, soon had a log house thrown up and a stable built of the same rude materials, and securing a few needed animals he set manfully to work to carve for himself a home out of this wilderness. The way was long and the road was hard, but he finally arrived, as men of the right kind of "grit" in those days generally did. Any one who visits section 36 in VanBuren township may see at a glance the magical changes that have been effected by Mr. Montgomery's industry, determination and dogged perseverance. The log cabin has long since given place to a comfortable brick residence; the former wildwood has been transformed into smiling meadows or bounteous grain fields; what was once marsh or swamp, under the modern system of tiling and ditching, has been converted into dry land suitable for cultivation. On this farm Mr. Montgomery has been living for forty-seven years, and though he has experienced all the ups and downs incident to agricultural pursuits he has done well on the whole and has a comfortable competence to smooth the decline of life. His good wife, who was a member of the Disciples church and always an exemplary Christian, closed her earthly career on August 1, 1894. Of their seven children two died in infancy, but the other five grew to maturity and are now doing well in their different spheres of life. Dr. Wesley Montgomery, the eldest son, is practicing medicine with success at Ada, in Hardin county, Ohio; Clara, the eldest daughter, married James E. Pore and is living with her husband on Logan avenue in Findlay; John, the second son and third child, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Findlay; W. L., the fourth, resides on the old home farm; and Frank, the youngest, a resident of Ada, is mail clerk on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad. Mr. Mont-

gomery is respected by all, not only as one of the county's pioneer farmers, but because in all the relations of life, both as a neighbor and citizen, he has done his full duty in assisting to build up the community. Mr. Montgomery was a Democrat until 1896, when he voted the Republican ticket.

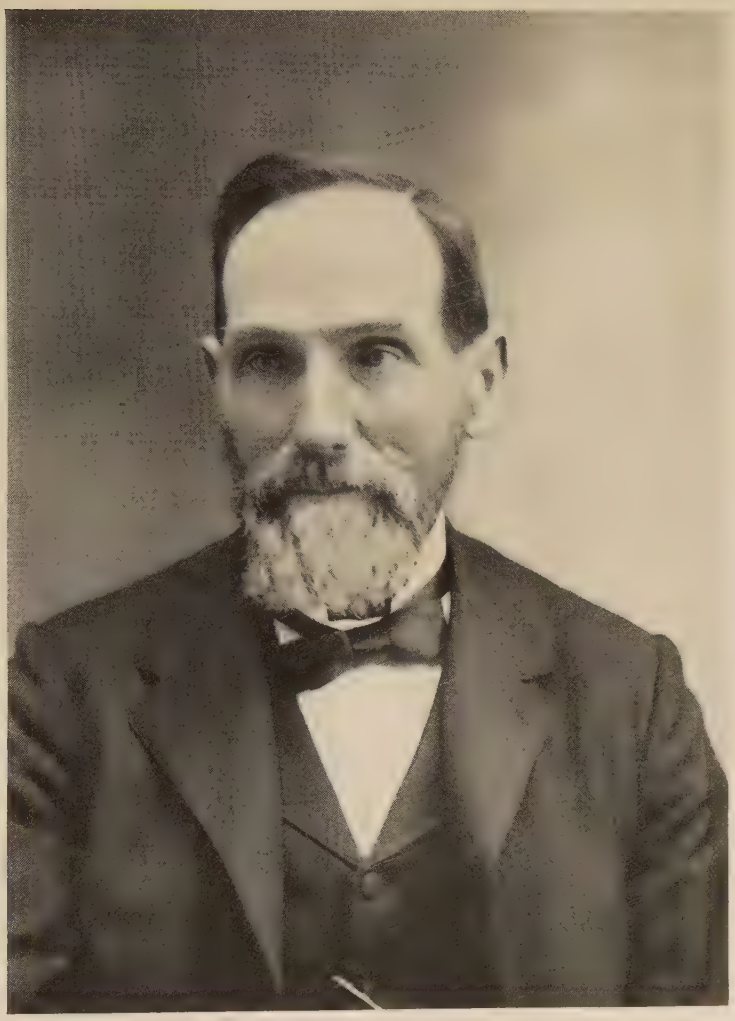
SAMUEL H. ELSEA.

One of the well known and respected farmers of Jackson township, Samuel Henry Elsea, is a representative of an honored pioneer family of Hancock county that was established here when conditions were very different from those now existing. The green woods stood as they came from the hand of nature and few roads penetrated into the forest. The homes of the settlers were widely scattered and the tents of the red men were frequently seen, while bears, wolves and other wild animals haunted the forest. Deer were frequently shot by the hunter and lesser wild game was often upon the table of the pioneers. Farm implements were very crude compared to those of the present day and the most far-sighted could hardly have imagined the changes which would occur and make Hancock county a thickly settled region, rich in fine farms and thriving towns. The Elsea family bore their part in the work of improvement and development here and like the others of the family the subject of this review has always been known as a worthy and progressive citizen, as he has carried on his work along agricultural lines.

Samuel Henry Elsea was born April 18, 1838, on the old family homestead in Eagle township, being the third in order of birth among the children that came to that household. His father, Moses Elsea, was born April 24, 1812, in Virginia, a son of William and Mary Elsea, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Maryland. William Elsea followed teaming in his native state and afterward removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, where his death occurred. In his family were ten sons and two daughters. Among the number was George, who lived for a short time in Hancock county, but afterward located in Putnam county; William, who resided for a few years in Eagle township and then went to Putnam county; and James, who lived and died in Eagle township, and his son Jacob is still living there.

After the death of the father Moses Elsea became responsible for the family, the other sons being much younger. He brought his mother, his younger brothers and his sisters to this county, and the mother spent her remaining days in Eagle township, reaching an advanced age. Moses Elsea was married in Pickaway county, January 14, 1833, to Mary Ann Oman, who was born in that county, June 27, 1815, a daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Oman, who

Margret Ellen Elsea



Samuel Henry Elsea

were natives of Pennsylvania and at an early day located in Pickaway county. They had a large family, of whom two sons, John and Peter, came to Hancock county, while Sarah married John Knight and both died in Eagle township, and Elizabeth became the wife of Clement Jester and lived in this county until her husband's death. Moses Oman was the owner of an extensive farm in Pickaway county. In Hancock county he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land for each of his two sons, John and Peter, and eighty acres for his daughter, Mary Ann. All three came to the county in the spring of 1834, settling upon their land. They had to cut their way through the woods for miles, so wild and unimproved was this district. The brothers had a good team, but the father of our subject performed his farm work in an early day with ox teams. John and Peter Oman each built a good cabin. Their father came with them on their first trip in order to see them comfortably established and usually visited them once a year after that. After his death, which occurred in Pickaway county, his widow lived with her children in this county, spending her last years with her daughter, Mary Ann. She died suddenly in the night when about eighty years of age. The farms of the Oman brothers and their sister all adjoined, but they had lived in the county for several years before they had any neighbors, when Henry Falk, Alfred Ralston and Abram Williamson located within two or three miles of them. It was some time before they knew anything of Findlay, where they afterward did their milling. For the first season they made their own living off the land. The woods were full of game so that they had an ample supply of venison and wild fowls. Many bears were also in the forests and wolves were frequently heard howling around their cabin homes, sometimes even jumping against the door.

After his marriage Moses Elsea devoted his attention to the work of clearing his farm, and after getting a start in this way he also did some teaming to Sandusky and Upper Sandusky, hauling his own produce to market there and bringing goods back on the return trips. He soon began to buy more land, and also purchased the farm of John Oman, who removed to Indiana. He added other tracts from time to time and also assisted others who wished to make purchases, including his brother, William, and his brother-in-law, David Loy. He gave each of his sons a farm and yet at the time of his death still had between four and five hundred acres of land. He lived to see all of his children married and with homes of their own which he had assisted them in obtaining. His estate, at the time of his demise, was valued at between fifty and sixty thousand dollars, and yet all through his life he had been most generous in helping others, and had given away much money

and land. Mr. Elsea had no educational advantages in his youth, but after he was married he learned to read, and through reading, observation and experience he continually broadened his knowledge and kept well informed on all public questions of his day. In politics he was a Democrat until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks. He retained the management of his business affairs as long as he lived, and continued his farm work until within a few years of his death, when he removed with his wife to Findlay, spending his last days there in quiet retirement. Even on the night he died he chatted cheerfully, seemingly being in usual good spirits. He had been ailing for some days previously, but no one thought death was so near. He died March 30, 1885, and his wife passed away in Findlay April 11, 1884. They had eight sons and four daughters.

The subject was reared under the parental roof, and bore his part in the work of the farm, thus gaining a practical experience of farm work that enabled him to carry on business for himself in a profitable manner when he had attained his majority. As a companion for life's journey he chose Miss Margaret Ella Line, a daughter of Conrad and Catherine Line, of Eagle township, where she was born July 19, 1841. They were married October 18, 1860, and in the spring of 1862 came to their present farm, which was then in the woods. He was drafted for service in the war and went to Lima, but his brother, Newton, was determined to go if Samuel did, so that it was arranged that Newton should go as his substitute. This cost him four hundred and fifty dollars, whereas if he had gone he would have received twelve hundred dollars from others. He also had to pay about three hundred and fifty dollars each year to his father for land, and other expenses had to be met, but prices were high about that time and he had considerable walnut and other timber on his place, the sales of which brought to him excellent returns. Thus he was enabled to meet the payments on his place, and inside of five years he found himself ahead on his payments and began to build a barn. He lived in his original cabin until he erected his present brick residence, and as his financial resources increased he bought more land on the state road near Findlay. He also made other purchases, and has given to each of his children a good tract of land or its equivalent, while he still has one hundred and fifty acres in the old homestead and one hundred and twenty acres in another farm, while his wife has forty acres in Eagle township. He has bred good stock—sheep, hogs, horses and cattle, and his sales of stock have annually augmented his income. He believes in tiling, and has therefore drained his land until it is very productive, and everything about the place is kept in first-class condition.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Elsea have been born four children who are yet living, and they lost one. Lorena Ellsworth, born October 25, 1865, died May 25, 1880. Conrad Moses, born February 5, 1862, is a farmer of Jackson township, and married Amanda Beard, by whom he has two children, Samuel Merley and Charles. Mary C., born August 8, 1863, is the wife of Albert Lincoln Miller, of Findlay. Lucinda and Matilda, twins, were born July 31, 1872. The former is the wife of Charles Shank, of Jackson township, and their children are Carl Henry and Edna. Matilda is the wife of Josiah Pepple, a farmer of Jackson township, and they have two sons, Ezra Lloyd and Albert Laurence.

In 1856 Mr. Elsea voted for Fremont and has since remained a stanch Republican in national affairs, but at local elections does not consider himself bound by party ties. When fifteen years of age he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and both he and his wife are now identified with Center Chapel, although she was connected with the United Brethren church for a number of years. Mr. Elsea has in his possession the old family Bible, and a valuable watch, which was carried by his father when a young man and which he himself carried several years. It was then worn in turn by all the younger brothers, eventually reverting to the father, and our subject purchased it upon the settlement of the estate. This in brief is the life history of one of the native sons of the county connected with its history from pioneer days. He has been a witness of much of the growth and development of this part of the state and like the others of the family has borne his part in the work of agricultural improvement here. He has always lived at peace with his fellow men, being just in his dealings and upright in his conduct, and through earnest labor he has prospered.

A. J. FISHER.

We have here a gentleman who has for long years been intimately connected with the development of Hancock county, in which he was born in Cass township, February 19, 1849. He is at the present time residing at Findlay, having by thrift and business sagacity been able to acquire a competence. He is a son of John and Katherine A. (Dunlap) Fisher, both of whom were natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and came to Hancock county about 1835, where they located in Cass township, buying eighty acres with very little cleared. They continued to reside on this farm, which they gradually brought under a high state of cultivation, and upon which they made many substantial improvements. John Fisher is remembered as an

exceedingly social, kind hearted man, a Democrat in politics, though not taking much part in public life. He was married in 1827 to the lady above mentioned, and to them were born fifteen children, only four of whom are now living, James W., Vincent, Joseph L., and our subject, A. J. Fisher. The father of the family died on the 2d of June, 1864, mourned by a large circle of friends. His wife continued to live a widow until her death in August, 1872.

A. J. Fisher passed the period of his adolesence on the farm with his parents, conning his lessons in the primitive log school house of that day. He later finished his literary education at the Findlay high school. Here he applied himself with such diligence that he was able to enter the teaching profession and in 1868 taught his first school in Washington township. For a period of fifteen years he continued to teach during the winter, giving his attention to agricultural pursuits in the summer. He, however, in 1882, abandoned the teaching profession entirely and since that time has given his undivided attention to farming. He made his first purchase of real estate in 1875, buying sixty acres in Allen township. He subsequently added to this sixty, which he continued to improve and beautify until he had one of the finest properties in Hancock county. During his active life in the community he held the offices of assessor, school director, councilman and infirmary director. He never shrank from giving his time and talent to the furtherance of the best interests of his county. His marriage occurred in 1872, when, on the 19th of November, he was joined to Miss Martha E. Hart. This lady was the daughter of Cyrus and Elizabeth Hart, and has borne him two children, Ottis W., born April 19, 1874, and Lizzy M., born October 28, 1879, now Mrs. John E. Betts, her husband being a leading young attorney of Findlay. The son, Ottis W. Fisher, was united in marriage on the 23d of March, 1898, to Miss May, the accomplished daughter of Henry and Susana George, and they have one daughter, Gertrude L., born September 10, 1901. Mrs. Fisher, who was born November 13, 1847, and died November 1, 1902, was a member of one of the old pioneer families of the county, which will be found mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Her parents located in Portage township in 1836, bought eighty acres of land on which they lived about fifteen years, and then exchanged it for one hundred and sixty acres in Allen township. Cyrus Hart is remembered as a practical farmer, and a good neighbor. In 1887 he sold his farm and removed to Findlay, where he died March 3, 1891. This removal was caused by the death of his wife, which occurred July 27, 1887. These parents were both consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Hart was a very active member, having served many

years as a class leader. Their family numbered eleven children, of whom the six now living are Rachel, Mary J., Izabelle, Eli R., Parley C. and John W.

A. J. Fisher has always been prominently identified with the material interests of Hancock county, and is remembered as having been president of the company which opened the oil field north of Findlay. This company, which opened the first oil well, was afterward absorbed by the Ohio Oil Company. Mr. Fisher is one of the esteemed citizens of Hancock county, whose efforts during a useful career have added to the general prosperity.

JAMES WILLIAMSON.

The family to which the above named belongs can show a creditable record both in civil and military life, as it has been well represented in two of the country's wars. Aaron Williamson, grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and two of his descendants upheld the flag during the great rebellion of 1861-5, which threatened destruction both to the Union and liberty itself. Peter and Rachel (Pinkerton) Williamson may justly be considered pioneers of Hanccok county, as they arrived in 1832 when but little improvement had been made in that part of the state, and agriculture, especially, was in a decidedly raw and backward state. Peter was born in Pickaway county, March 19, 1816, but his wife was a Pennsylvanian, and after their arrival they located in what is now Jackson township. The father died September 3, 1890, and the mother January 9, 1878, after becoming the parents of six children, of whom four are now living. James Williamson, the eldest, was born in Findlay township, Hancock county, Ohio, June 24, 1837, obtained his education at the schools of the vicinage and was trained to do farm work during his growing years. Shortly after reaching manhood the Civil war was raging and he determined to take his part in the great work of saving the Union. For this purpose he enlisted in August, 1862, as a private in Company G, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for the three years' service in the Western army. He took part in all the battles in which his regiment was called on to engage, and bore himself with that fortitude, self-denial and obedience to orders that characterized the soldiers of the great struggle between the states. He was discharged with an excellent record and no demerit marks against him in the summer of 1865, after all serious hostilities terminated. His father was also one of the heroes of the mighty conflict, and served in Company D, same regiment in which his son was enlisted. Mr. Williamson returned home immediately after obtaining his re-

lease from the army and lost no time in renewing his acquaintance with farm work. His first purchase of real estate was made in Putnam county, where, in 1865, he secured a farm of forty acres and cultivated the same for the next four years. At the end of that period he sold all his belongings in Putnam county and moved over to Hancock county, spending one year at Findlay and the next four years at other places without obtaining a permanent location. In 1887 he found a place to suit him in Blanchard township, where he bought the sixty-four acres which he has since cultivated and which constitute his present homestead. Mr. Williamson is a general farmer, confining himself to raising the standard cereal crops and sufficient stock for domestic purposes, but not atempting anything in the "fancy" line.

In 1861 Mr. Williamson was united in marriage with Miss Azubah D., daughter of Steven and Betsey Smith, and they had scarcely passed their honeymoon when he went to the front in obedience to his country's call. They had the unusually large family of fourteen children and succeeded in raising eleven to maturity, their names being Francis M., Peter, Alexander, Jasper, Eddy, Nancy J., Mary, William, James, Alice and Benjamin H. Mrs. Williamson, the mother of this interesting family, is a native of Blanchard township, where her birth occurred in 1844. Mr. Williamson takes a natural pride in all things relating to the Civil war and its surviving veterans, with whom he renews relations and recalls old times as a member of Engle Post 110, Grand Army of the Republic. He is a stanch Republican, having cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and voted the Republican ticket ever since.

JAMES A. BOPE.

From whatever viewpoint assumed, it must be acknowledged that the lawyer is a pre-eminent factor in all affairs of private concern and national importance. The man versed in the laws of the country, as distinguished from business men or politicians, has been a recognized power. He has been depended upon to conserve the best and permanent interests of the whole people, and without him and his practical judgment the efforts of the statesman and the industry of the business man and mechanic would prove futile. The reason is not far to seek. The professional lawyer is never the creature of circumstance. The profession is open to talent, and no definite prestige or success can be attained save by indomitable energy, perseverance, patience and strong mentality. Among the representative members of the bar of Hancock county is Colonel Bope, who has been engaged in the practice of

his profession in the city of Findlay for two score years and whose is the added distinction of having rendered the valiant service of a true son of the republic when the integrity of the nation was menaced by armed rebellion. His life has been one of signal honor and usefulness, he has high rank in his profession and he has so lived as to gain and retain the confidence and esteem of his fellow men. It is certainly consistent that a review of his career be incorporated in a work of the province assigned to this publication.

James A. Bope is a native of Ohio, having been born in Winchester, Adams county, on the 30th of November, 1833. His parents removed to Lancaster in 1838, and there he received his preliminary educational discipline, after which he was matriculated in Wittenberg College, at Springfield, Ohio, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1855. There has been no element of vacillation in his nature, and thus it was to be expected that he would early form definite plans as to his course in life. He began reading law in Lancaster, being a close and assiduous student and so rapidly advancing in his technical knowledge as to secure admission to the bar of the state in 1857. He served his novitiate as a practitioner in Lancaster, where he remained until 1859, when he came to Findlay, where he has ever since maintained his home and where by his life and services he has added to the dignity of the bar of the state.

In 1861 Colonel Bope had been elected prosecuting attorney of the county, but the responsibilities of this incumbency and the demands of his general practice did not deter him from promptly responding to the clarion call to arms when the dark shadow of Civil war obscured the national horizon. In July, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, of which he was made captain and in which he served until July 10, 1864, when he was appointed acting inspector general in the brigade commanded by Colonel P. T. Swaine. In the battle of Atlanta our subject was severely wounded and was sent home by General Schofield, presumably never to return to the front or even to survive his injuries. He, however, recovered and rejoined his command in North Carolina. He was made lieutenant colonel and was placed in command of the Ninety-ninth and Fifteenth Consolidated Regiments of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which capacity he served until the close of the war, being mustered out in July, 1865. He was an active participant in all of the engagements of his command, from Perryville, Kentucky, to the end, including the battles of Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, and from Dalton to Atlanta. He had received several minor wounds prior to being incapacitated by his injuries at Atlanta.

After being mustered out Colonel Bope returned to Findlay and resumed his interrupted professional work, in which the long intervening years have brought him marked precedence and a representative clientage. For more than a decade he was retained as counsel for the Findlay city council, and thereafter served for four years as city solicitor. He devotes his attention principally to corporation law, having nothing in the line of criminal cases in connection with his professional work, though he has proved a strong advocate, versatile and thorough and learned in the minutiæ of the law and precedents and the general science of jurisprudence. He is counsel for a number of important corporations, including leading banking institutions, and is attorney for the Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland and the Big Four railroads and also for the Bowling Green & Southern Traction Company. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party, of whose cause he has ever been a stalwart supporter and advocate.

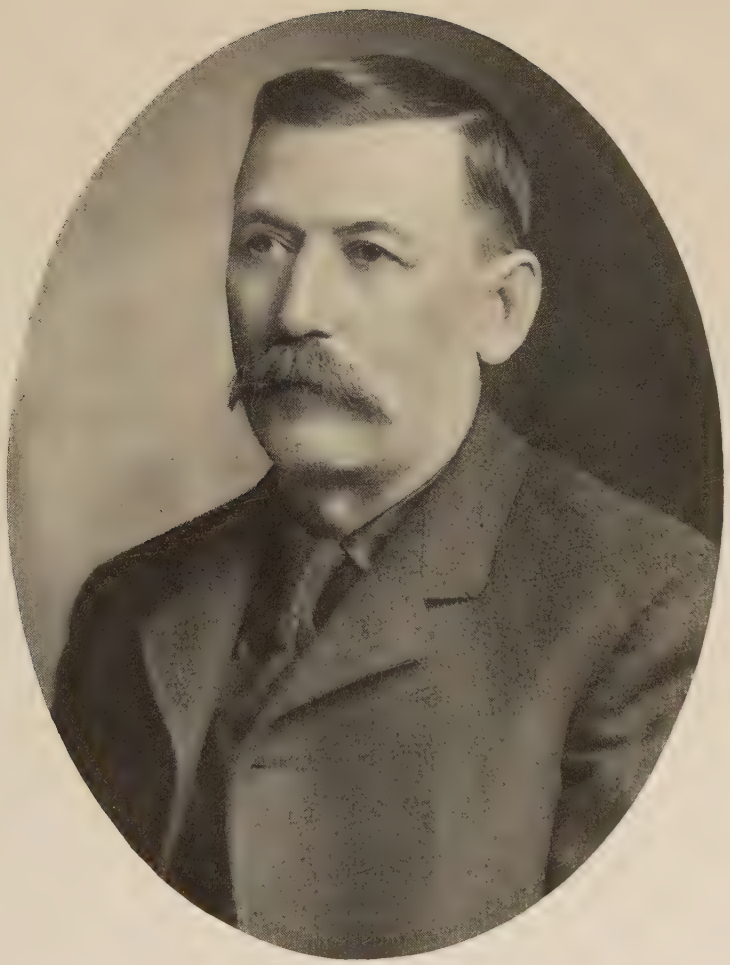
In 1861 Colonel Bope was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Meeks, a daughter of Rev. J. A. Meeks, and their home is a center of gracious hospitality.

JOHN BAKER.

A pioneer family whose descendants have done much to sustain the reputation of Hancock county in the great state of Ohio, is here presented for the consideration of our readers. Grafton Baker, the paternal grandfather of the gentleman named above, was the original pioneer, he with his wife Mary and four sons and a daughter removing to the county in 1835. They located in Washington township and entered one whole section, three-fourths of which was in Cass township, which he afterward divided into equal parts, giving one to each son. Grafton and his wife were strong advocates of the tenets of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in that early day did much to establish it in the county. Politically he was a Whig. After a life of toil and care for the welfare of his family, a life uneventful but useful, he passed to his rest in 1849. He was born in the year 1767, so that he lived to a ripe old age. The wife of his bosom died at an advanced age. Alexander Baker, one of the four sons of this pioneer couple, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1816, and was a youth of nineteen years when the family located in Hancock county. Here in 1843 he married Katherine Eckert, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1824, and whose pioneer parents are noticed elsewhere in this volume. These parents reared three children: Lucinda, deceased; Amanda, now Mrs. G. W. Norris; and John, the subject of this sketch.

The father of the family, Alexander Baker, was a practical farmer re-

MRS. LUCIEN BAKER.



JOHN BAKER.

siding on the quarter section given to him by his father. He had been given more than the average education, and had taught school during the early part of his life, but after his marriage he confined himself to farming. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a man of good judgment as well as sound morals. His useful career was cut short by premature death in 1849 at the age of thirty-three years, but his wife, who survives to honor his name and memory, lives with her son John on one of the original quarter sections. John Baker, the youngest child, was born in Cass township in 1847 and educated in the usual way in the district schools. He has been a continuous resident of this immediate section of the county during his entire lifetime, and his character has been such that he wields influence for good throughout all the county. After he reached his majority he set up an establishment of his own, and was joined in marriage to Miss Sara, daughter of Michael and Ann Binger, the event occurring in 1868. Of the six children resulting from this union only three are living: Alexander, Lemuel and Amanda. The mother, who died in 1887, is remembered as a woman of good heart and gentle disposition. Mr. Baker, like his ancestors, has confined himself to agricultural pursuits in a practical way. He enjoys the full confidence of his fellow citizens, who have honored him with several of the offices of the township, and at different times he has been trustee and justice of the peace. The last mentioned office he has held for twenty years, a fact which speaks eloquently of the manner in which he has administered its duties. Mr. Baker has a place of one hundred and sixty acres which he devotes to general farming.

WILLIAM AND JAMES M. CUSAC.

Few names are better known in Hancock county than that of Cusac, and no citizens are more highly esteemed than those who bear this honored designation. For many years and through two generations they have been identified with the agricultural and industrial development of that portion of Ohio in which their lots were cast. The founders of the family were Daniel and Sarah (Sellers) Cusac, natives of Pennsylvania, who removed in 1839 from Perry county. Daniel was a wagonmaker by trade and a good workman, who combined skill with intelligence. At different times he purchased land in Hancock county, which in the aggregate amounted to one hundred and twenty acres, and on this he settled after his arrival in Ohio. By dint of much hard work and assisted by his sturdy sons, this land was eventually cleared and brought into that high state of cultivation so characteristic of the Ohio farms.

In the fullness of time and years the parents were called to their long rest, after rearing a family of sons and daughters who rank among the best class of Ohio citizens. Of the nine children, the eight now living are Nancy, Mary A., Sarah E., Margaret, John, James M., Isaac and William. All the children were reared and educated in Hancock county and like their parents were trained in the doctrine and discipline of the Presbyterian church. After the death of his parents William Cusac, the youngest of the living children, purchased the interest of the other heirs and since 1877 has had full possession of his father's estate. About the year 1886 he leased the oil privileges of his land to a responsible company and from this transaction has received a profitable revenue. In addition to this, however, he operates an oil field on his own account and this also has proved remunerative. Since he took charge of his father's estate Mr. Cusac has made many needed improvements by the erection of necessary buildings, beautifying of the grounds and other additions, both ornamental and useful, which go so far towards the enhancement of landed property. Mr. Cusac stands high in the community, as a citizen of moral worth and blameless character, and is active in religious work, holding the position of trustee and treasurer of the Presbyterian church. December 10, 1858, the nuptials of William Cusac and Phebe A., daughter of Amos and Elizabeth Cooper, were solemnized at the home of the bride's parents. This union, which proved a happy one in every respect, was blessed by the birth of four children, of whom Amos N., Daniel J. and Elizabeth A. are living, while Joseph M. has departed this life. Mrs. Cusac, the beloved mother of this family and a lady of most excellent traits, is a native of Hancock county, having been born in Liberty township in 1836.

James M., another son of Daniel and Sarah Cusac, also deserves especial mention as a successful man of affairs. His birth occurred November 25, 1832, and he was seven years of age when his parents moved to Hancock county. He early exhibited those traits of character which have made the name of Cusac notable, and from his youth has been industrious, saving and cautious in the transaction of business. The result of this steady application and exercise of good judgment has been marked success in his ventures, and at this time James M. Cusac owns one hundred and thirty-five acres of valuable land, upon which are operated thirty-one oil wells. Besides this property, however, of which he still retains control, Mr. Cusac has deeded one hundred and fifty acres to his children. His first investment in real estate was in 1862, when he made a modest purchase of twenty-three acres of land. This nucleus, within the next twenty years had been increased by Mr. Cusac to one hundred and eighty-five acres of as valuable land as Hancock county

affords. Not only as a business man, but in private life, in religious circles, as a neighbor and as a citizen, James M. Cusac enjoys the highest standing and consideration. Everybody likes him and everybody respects him. For six years he filled the important position of infirmary director and for a long period, in fact from his earliest youth, he has been a consistent and honored member of the Presbyterian church. In 1856 he was married to Miss Rachel W., daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Davis) Wilson. The latter were Kentuckians and among the first settlers of Hancock county, where the family has always been highly respected. Rachel Wilson, who became Mrs. Cusac, was born in the neighborhood where she now resides and there her happy married life has been spent since 1882. The children of James M. and Rachel W. Cusac, ten in number, are named as follows in order of birth: Marilla D., Sallie, Josephine, Milan D., Mary V., Alice B., Lulu R., Edson J., George V. (deceased) and Mack W. In politics Mr. Cusac is a Democrat.

CORNELIUS S. JAMESON.

This worthy and respected farmer lives in Big Lick township, on a farm of seventy-one acres, which he devotes to general farming. This tract of land has been in the family for a number of years, he having been born there May 25, 1838. His father was the Rev. Ira Jameson, an efficient and popular minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, who removed to this county in 1833, where he bought the land upon which our subject now resides. Before he died he added forty-five acres to the tract, all of which he cleared to a great extent. He was a regularly ordained minister of the gospel, and preached for a number of years with great acceptance. He was a native of the Blue Grass state, where he was born near Paris, in 1802. He married Rebecca Polston February 6, 1822, the issue being ten children, viz.: Cornelius S.; Sarah, who was born August 12, 1840; Ira M., August 9, 1843; Susana, July 12, 1825; Prior B., February 9, 1827; Andrew, March 16, 1829; Anna, July 2, 1831; Maria B., September 19, 1833; Asbury, December 17, 1837; and an unnamed infant. Ira, the father of this family died July 21, 1848. The wife, Rebecca, was a native of Maryland. She died October 27, 1868.

Cornelius S. Jameson, as stated above, has passed the entire period of his life in Big Lick township, where he has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits with the greatest success. He purchased his first farm in 1876, and two years later he called to preside over his home Miss Sara A., the daughter of William and Sara Stokes. To this union, which was a union

of hearts, were born Edith D., March 23, 1881; Ira W., January 12, 1883; Jason, June 30, 1885, and a deceased infant. Mrs. Sara A. Jameson was born in Indiana in 1845. The Jamesons were natives of Ireland and came here before the Revolution and were Protestants from a remote period.

Mr. and Mrs. Jameson are worthy and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, whose interests they delight to forward. Mr. Jameson is an acceptable and efficient class leader and steward in the organization. They have been prominently and honorably associated with the history of Hancock county, and as such it is a pleasure to give them representation in this volume.

In the summer of 1902 a company drilled a well on Mr. Jameson's farm, and produced oil. Rev. Ira Jameson's mother was a Brown, and her mother was a Ball, and as Martha Washington was of the latter family, a relationship is shown.

Mr. Jameson was a member of the Squirrel Hunters, a body of men called out by Governor David Tod to protect the state of Ohio from the rebel invasion of 1862. In September, 1862, he received his discharge, signed by Governor Tod, Charles W. Hill, adjutant general of Ohio, and Malcom McDalad, major and aide de camp. Daniel Brown, brother of Ira Jameson's mother, was killed by the Indians in Kentucky. He had sent his family to the blockhouse for protection, and while looking after the stock was surprised by the Indians and killed by having sixteen shots fired into his body.

ROBERT DAVY.

Robert Davy, deceased, was a prominent farmer of Washington township, Hancock county, where he was during his lifetime held in great respect. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, November 14, 1824, and there received his training and education. Upon arriving at manhood he engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he followed with great success during his life. In June, 1847, he was united in marriage with Rebecca, daughter of Henry and Rachel Newhouse, and a year later left their old home for Hancock county, where they purchased eighty acres of land, to which they subsequently added one hundred and twenty. The latter tract, after Mr. Davy's death, was divided among his children, the original purchase of eighty acres remaining still in the possession of his widow. Mr. Davy was a worthy man, a practical farmer, a loyal citizen, a loving husband, and an indulgent father. The date of his decease was April 14, 1872. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Davy were Ruth, James, Elza, Alley and Effie.

Rebecca A Day

Mrs. Rebecca N. Davy was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in January, 1827, and her parents removed to Hancock county in 1848. They purchased here eighty acres of land, and upon this they resided during their lives, surrounded with all the comforts of a country home of that day. He was an energetic and successful farmer and stood high in that community. He was a native of Carroll county, and died in Hancock county in the ninetieth year of his age. His wife Rachel was born in Virginia, and died at the age of eighty-seven years in Hancock county. They were worthy citizens and held the esteem of their numerous friends and acquaintances.

JACOB H. BOGER, D. D. S.

This is an age of progress, and America is the exponent of the dominating spirit of the age. In the beginning of the last century our country was in its infancy, and history shows no parallel for its growth and achievements. No other country has made as great advancement in the lines of science and mechanical invention, and its prestige in this regard is distinct and undisputed. In this steady growth and development which has characterized the age of science dentistry—which is both a science and a mechanic art—has kept pace with the general progress, and in this profession the subject of this review stands as one of the most skilled representatives in the state of Ohio, who is established in the successful practice of dentistry in the city of Findlay, Hancock county, where he is honored as a citizen and as a leading member of his profession. He is at the present time incumbent of the office of postmaster in his home city, and has given a most discriminating and capable administration of the affairs of the same, gaining the endorsement of the local public and ever aiming to insure the best possible service. He has been otherwise prominent in the political and civic life of the city, and is well worthy of consideration in this work as one of the representative citizens of Hancock county.

Jacob Henry Boger is a native of the old Keystone state of the Union, having been born in the city of Harrisburg, capital of Pennsylvania, on the 27th of June, 1859, a son of John A. and Mary A. (Kuhnle) Boger, both of stanch German lineage. His father is likewise a native of Pennsylvania, where he has attained a position of prominence and influence, being now incumbent of a position in the comptroller's office in the city of Philadelphia, where he took up his abode when his son, the Doctor, was a lad of about ten years, and where he soon gained precedence as one of the leaders in the local ranks of the Republican party. He and his wife became the parents of

seven children, of whom six are living at the present time. Dr. Boger secured his initial scholastic discipline in his native city and thereafter continued his studies in the work of the public schools of the city of Philadelphia until 1877, when he began the work of technical preparation for that profession in which he has attained so marked precedence and success. He began the study of dentistry in the office and under the direction of Dr. J. F. Fryer, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, one of the most eminent members of his profession in that section of the Keystone state, and Dr. Boger thoroughly familiarized himself with the methods adopted by his able preceptor, in both the operative and laboratory departments of dental science, and in 1877, in order to thoroughly fortify himself for the active work of his chosen profession, he was matriculated in the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, in Philadelphia, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1880, receiving at that time the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery and class honors.

On the 16th of March of the same year, Dr. Boger began the active practice of his profession in the city of Findlay, which has ever since been the field of his well directed and signally successful efforts. He has steadily risen in popular favor and his professional business is now the largest in the city. His offices are finely equipped with the most improved mechanical accessories are made attractive with the tasteful furnishings, and the professional services of the Doctor have been in demand by a patronage of distinctively representative character. Of him it has been well said that he is not a man "whose ability is limited to one line of business activity alone. He has largely contributed to the material resources of the city and is deeply interested in all that is calculated to promote the growth and upbuilding of Findlay. He has dealt to a considerable extent in real estate and has found this a profitable source of income."

Dr. Boger has given an unequivocal support to the Republican party from the time of attaining his legal majority and he has been a prominent and influential factor in political affairs in this section of the state. He was a member of the board of election supervisors of Hancock county, in which capacity he served consecutively for seven years, the local public having implicit confidence in his impartiality and judgment. In 1884 the Doctor was elected to the office of city clerk of Findlay, and of this position he was the efficient incumbent for four years. Of his position in regard to matters political another publication gave the following appreciative estimate: "He has given valuable aid to the county committees and his counsel is valuable and is gladly received. He was chairman of the congressional committee of the eighth district in 1898, and is active in the Ohio League of Republican

Clubs. In 1896 he was a member of the executive committee of Ohio from Hancock county, and in 1887 he was one of those who went to New York City to form the National League of Republican Clubs. He was a delegate to the state convention in 1891, when Major William McKinley was nominated by acclamation for governor, and later he was one of the most earnest and efficient supporters of the illustrious Ohio statesman for the presidency." On the 22d of June, 1898, Dr. Boger was appointed postmaster of Findlay by President McKinley, the appointment meeting with most favorable reception, and he has proved an able executive and one fully appreciative of the responsible duties entrusted to his care in connection with this department of the government service. He was reappointed by President Roosevelt June 27, 1902. For some years he took an active part in the interest of the Episcopal church, and fraternally he has attained distinguished rank in the time-honored order of Freemasonry, in which he has advanced to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, being also a noble of the Mystic Shrine. He has taken a very deep and appreciative interest in this great fraternal organization, and is past eminent commander of Findlay Commandery, No. 49, Knights Templar. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Royal Arcanum and Knights of Pythias. He has ever kept in close touch with the advances made in his profession and is a member of several societies established in the interests of the same, including the Ohio State Dental Association and the Dentists' Protective Association. Reverting, incidentally, to his genealogy, it should be noted that the Doctor's maternal great-grandfather, Samuel Skeen, was a lieutenant in the Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania, militia in the early days.

On the 6th of December, 1882, Dr. Boger was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Mungen, a daughter of Hon. William Mungen, who was the only representative ever sent from Hancock county to Congress and who was one of the distinguished citizens of Findlay. Dr. and Mrs. Boger have one child, Corinne.

REV. ASA ELLIS.

For sixty-three years the subject of this review has been numbered among the honored and highly respected citizens of Hancock county and has been prominently identified with those interests calculated to uplift and benefit his fellow men. For many years he labored in the Master's vineyard as a member of the Baptist church and was also engaged in the practice of medicine, thus ministering to both the spiritual and temporal needs of the people.

Mr. Ellis was born in Bertie county, North Carolina, September 12, 1819, and is of English descent, his paternal grandfather, Ezekiel Ellis, having come to this country from England in 1730. His son, Ezekiel Ellis, Jr., the father of our subject, was a native of North Carolina, and on reaching man's estate married Margaret Lee, a first cousin of Robert E. Lee. The Ellis family were not slaveholders and were active members of the Baptist church.

At the age of seventeen years our subject began preaching in the primitive Baptist church and continued to devote his time to the ministry for many years. On leaving his old home in North Carolina he decided to locate in Tennessee, where he had relatives living, but falling in with a company of friends bound for Ohio, he came to this state in 1839 at the age of twenty years. He first stopped at Chillicothe and from there went to Fayette county with an uncle, Isaac Drace, spending one winter there engaged in preaching. He finally determined to go to Illinois, but on his way there in 1844 stopped at Findlay to see Henry Bishop, editor of the Courier and a prominent Baptist, and also Price Blackford, father of Aaron Blackford. There being no Baptist minister at this place he was persuaded to preach for the congregation and filled the position twenty-five years, during which time he organized five societies in this section of the state, at Findlay, Carey, Orange, Gilboa and Eagle.

Mr. Ellis was married April 14, 1846, to Miss Maria Reynolds, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Reynolds, who brought their family to Wyandot county, Ohio, when she was a child of eleven years. By trade her father was a blacksmith and gunsmith. Mr. Ellis became acquainted with his wife while preaching at Carey, the family being members of the congregation there. At the time of her marriage Mrs. Ellis was twenty-four years of age and she became the mother of eight children, namely: Bishop Reynolds, who died at the age of eleven years; Curtis Welch, who served as postmaster of Curtellis, Ohio, spent several years in the west and died at the age of forty-eight; George Washington, who died in Montana at the age of forty-two; Valinda Elizabeth, who married Albert Johnson, of St. Joseph county, Michigan; Robert A., a physician of Findlay, Ohio, and San Francisco, California, who died in the Klondike, where he had gone as a medical practitioner; Abner Theodore, a prospector now in Alaska; Willie, a farmer of Jackson township, who married Eva Gossage; and Jerema, who died in infancy.

In the fall of 1846 Mr. Ellis located on a farm in Jackson township, but did not engage in agricultural pursuits, as he devoted his attention wholly to the work of the ministry and the practice of medicine, which he began in

1848. He continued to engage in practice until 1870, when the state passed a law requiring that all physicians pass an examination before the state board, but not wishing to take an examination he retired from the profession. He had quite an extensive patronage extending for miles into the surrounding country and he met with most excellent success in the treatment of various diseases. During the cholera epidemic seventeen persons died in Eagle township, but he lost but one patient and cured many. He was also very successful in the treatment of typhoid fever and milk sickness, which was quite prevalent among the early settlers of this portion of the state and lost no cases toward the close of his practice. After his practical retirement he continued to prescribe for his old neighbors and friends to some extent, but always free of charge. He was a member of the physio-medical school, although he never received the degree of Medical Doctor, and was very proficient in his profession. During all this time Mr. Ellis continued to preach from 1834 until 1880, and occasionally since that time. He has performed many marriage and funeral ceremonies and labored untiringly as a local pastor. While in his prime he held many religious debates with the Bible as his text book, and he always held to the spirit if not to the letter of the text. He is broad and liberal in his views on scriptural, as well as other subjects, and is a man who commands the respect of all who know him.

At one time Mr. Ellis was the owner of four hundred acres of land, two-thirds of which he placed under cultivation, and he still retains one hundred and twenty acres in the home farm, having given to each of his children a farm. In early life he was a Democrat until 1840, when he became a Whig, and continued to support that party until the organization of the Republican party in 1856, when he joined its ranks. He endorses its views on the money question, but is not an advocate of expansion, and stands with the administration in regard to Cuba but not to the Philippines. He has taken an active part in political conventions and has always kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day. His life has been exemplary in many respects and he well merits the confidence and respect so freely accorded him by his fellow citizens.

S. M. STEWART.

Though a native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Stewart has been a resident for thirty-two years in various counties of Ohio. During his active life he has tried different pursuits, including merchandising and dealing in real estate, and he met with a fair measure of success, but he eventually returned to the

first experience of his youth and settled down permanently to farming. At the present time he owns two places in Hancock county, his home farm being situated in Blanchard township and consisting of one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land. This tract is devoted to general farming, including the standard crops and stock-raising, and as Mr. Stewart is a good business man and careful manager, he ranks as one of the safe and conservative farmers of his neighborhood.

It is only necessary to mention the names of Stewart and Randolph to recall to any reader of English and American history that they are among the most ancient and famous in our annals. On his father's side the subject of our sketch is descended from a Scotch family of Stewarts who were quite prominent in the land of Bruce and Burns, their ancestors being connected with powerful and aristocratic families and participants in many of the famous wars of "old Scotia." On his mother's side Mr. Stewart is descended from the English Randolphs, who came over shortly after the Mayflower voyage, and subsequently figured so conspicuously in Virginia. Eventually the two families in one of their remote branches came together by the marriage in Butler county, Pennsylvania, of Joseph Stewart and Elizabeth Randolph. S. M. Stewart, son of this couple and subject of this biography, was born while his parents were residing in Butler county, Pennsylvania, in 1852, and remained there until he was eighteen years old. After receiving the usual education afforded by the common schools and learning farm work during the interims, he decided before reaching his majority to try his fortune in the west. It was in 1870 that he made his first appearance in Hancock county and as the most available opportunity in sight he sought employment in ordinary labor on a farm. Subsequently he removed to Allen county, Ohio, bought a stock of boots and shoes and opened up a mercantile business in that line, which he prosecuted for some time with a fair degree of success. This enterprise, however, he eventually traded for a farm in Paulding county and upon removing to that locality shortly after became a dealer in real estate. These various transactions consumed his time until 1898, when Mr. Stewart returned to Hancock county and, like the giant in the fable, sought strength again by renewing his touch with mother earth. He purchased a farm of eighty acres in Pleasant township and in 1901 bought and removed to another in Blanchard township, on which he has since resided.

In 1871 Mr. Stewart was united in martimony with Miss Orissa Coates, who was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1850, came to Blanchard township when a little girl and was reared on the farm where she now lives. She was the daughter of Gardner and Emma Coates, her father having

at one time done a thriving business as a woolen manufacturer in Massachusetts. Owing to financial reverses he came west and after a residence of several years in Pennsylvania removed to Hancock county in 1855 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a man of sterling qualities and of the strictest walk in his daily life. His family consisted of seven children, of whom four are living, the eldest, William by name, having lost his life while serving his country as a soldier in the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have two sons, of whom Alva, the eldest, is a successful school teacher, and L. A. is a prosperous farmer in Paulding county. The family are members of the Blanchard Methodist Episcopal church and enjoy cordial relations with a wide circle of neighbors and friends.

CHRISTOPHER A. SALTZMAN.

The gentleman whose name is above inscribed, at present a thrifty farmer of Big Lick township, is descended from one of the French emigrants who came to Hancock county about the middle of the last century and who have done their full share towards its progress and development. Andrew and Mary (Rupp) Saltzman emigrated from their native land of France in 1857, came directly to Ohio and located on one hundred and thirty acres of land purchased in Big Lick township. There were but few improvements and the land was rough and unkempt, but French thrift soon found a way to better things and eventually make of the place an ideal farm. At first a rude log house was put up for temporary purposes, but this in time gave place to a commodious dwelling more suitable to the prosperity that had come to the owners. Andrew was a good farmer, who attended strictly to his own business, let politics alone and was intent on making friends instead of enemies. In religion he was an adherent of the Mennonite faith and his politics were mildly Democratic, though he avoided office seeking and the intrigues inseparable from that pursuit. Andrew Saltzman terminated his industrious and blameless life December 27, 1896, being the survivor of his wife, whose demise occurred March 25, 1895. They reared a family of four children, all of whom are still living, and among the number Christopher A. Saltzman, who was born in France, December 5, 1849, and was consequently eight years old when his parents crossed the sea. As a bright little French boy, with all the vivacity and quickness to learn so characteristic of the children of that sunny land, young Saltzman soon "caught on" to American ways and rapidly absorbed the best that could be taught in the schools of Hancock county. As he grew he learned all about the details of farm life by perform-

ing the work usually allotted to farmer boys, and when he became a man was well fitted for success in his chosen pursuit. His father gave him the farm where he now resides, which he has cultivated judiciously and industriously, in addition to the management of a sawmill situated on his place, which he owns and operates. Between the two kinds of occupation Mr. Saltzman has been a very busy man and his steady application to business has been rewarded by a flattering measure of success. His fellow citizens honored him with an election as township clerk and he discharged the duties of that office with fidelity and efficiency. November 14, 1895, Mr. Saltzman was united in marriage with Miss Cordia, the worthy daughter of Franklin and Mary Heart, to which union have been born two children: Andrew F., December 17, 1896, and Virgil C., April 27, 1899. Mrs. Saltzman is a native of Nevada, Ohio, and is a member of the Christian Union church, to which her husband also belongs. The family, both of the older and younger generations, have always been highly esteemed by their neighbors and the members have furnished fine examples of French citizenship thoroughly Americanized by the free institutions of their adopted country.

DAVID DICK.

The history of mankind is replete with illustrations of the fact that it is only under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of opposition that the best and strongest in men are brought out and developed. Perhaps the history of no people so forcibly impresses one with this truth as the annals of our republic. If anything can inspire the youth of our country to persistent, honest, and laudable endeavor, it should be the life record of such men as he of whom we write. The example of the illustrious few of our countrymen who have risen from obscurity to the highest positions in the gift of the nation serves often to awe our young men rather than inspire them to emulation, for they reason that only a few can ever attain to such eminence; but the history of such men as David Dick proves conclusively that with a reasonable amount of mental and physical power success is bound eventually to crown the endeavor of those who have the ambition to put forth their best efforts, and the will and manliness to persevere therein.

Mr. Dick is to-day one of the most successful men of Hancock county, and certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished. He first saw the light in Richland county, Ohio, May 28, 1836, being the son of George and Sarah (Nicholas) Dick, both of whom were natives of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. Here they were reared, and after marriage moved out to Ohio,

David Dickson and Family

the year being 1826. During his lifetime, George Dick made his impress on the society of that early time as an honest, worthy citizen and a good farmer. He and his wife were members of the German Reformed church. He lived to a most advanced age, having been born in 1796, and his death occurring in 1888. His wife Sarah also lived to a good age, her birth having occurred in 1796, and her death in 1881. The family which they reared consisted of eleven children, but only five are now living, David being the only one in this county. Mr. Dick was reared and educated in Richland county, where he deliberately chose the calling of a farmer, which he has followed with marked success up to the present time, not in the desultory manner which marks the efforts of some people in life, but with a straightforward, year in and year out persistency and it is due to this fact and the further fact that he is possessed of a good business head that he owes his success in life. The home life of Mr. Dick began March 11, 1862, when he celebrated his marriage with Barbara, the daughter of Adam and Susanne Weiser. They have had six interesting children, namely: Willia A., now deceased; George W.; Cora A., Jemmie M., deceased; John A., and Charles. Mrs. Dick's father, Adam Weiser, was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and was by occupation a farmer. Her mother, Susan Bender, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. They were married in Richland county, Ohio, in 1835, and became the parents of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, and nine grew to manhood and womanhood, and six are living. Mrs. Dick was born in Richland county, near Mansfield, May 14, 1842, and was educated in the common schools while growing to womanhood. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Dick occurred in Richland county, Ohio, where they continued to reside for four years. After the war they removed to Hancock county, where they located in Washington township, purchasing fifty-three acres of very ordinary land and in a very poor state of cultivation. Mr. Dick improved this property, and in 1872 sold it to advantage. He again purchased farm land, this time one hundred and sixty acres of the tract which he now owns. This also was in a run-down state, but Mr. Dick by hard work and honest toil has succeeded in making it one of the best farms in the county. He has erected new and commodious buildings, and in many other respects has increased its value. He later added eighty acres to the original purchase. The oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick, George W., is comfortably situated as a young agriculturist, having married Miss Jessie Taylor, who has presented him with four beautiful children, Ethel; Lula; Nellie and John E. Cora A., the daughter, married Alvin Davidson, a popular resident of the county.

David Dick is a public spirited citizen, whose labors have been a valuable

contributor to the material advancement and substantial progress of his adopted county. His resistless energy and resolute purpose have placed him in the forefront, so far as material matters are concerned, and his high qualities of citizenship insure him the respect of his neighbors.

GEORGE F. PENDLETON.

Whatever else may be said of the legal fraternity, it cannot be denied that members of the bar have been more prominent actors in public affairs than any other class of American people. This is but the natural result of causes which are manifest and require no explanation. The ability and training which qualify one to practice law also qualify him in many respects for duties which lie outside the strict path of his profession, and which touch the general interest of society. The subject of this record is a man who has brought his keen discrimination and his thorough wisdom to bear, not alone in professional paths, but also for the benefit of his county and state.

Hon. George F. Pendleton, at present one of the leading attorneys of Findlay, Ohio, was born in Waldo, now Knox county, Maine, September 27, 1840, and the following year was brought by his parents to Hancock county, of which he has since been a resident. Mr. Pendleton is a son of Darius and Rachel Pendleton. His father was a farmer, builder and contractor, and lived out his life in Hancock county, where he died in September, 1876. He was born in South Fox Island, Maine, in 1816. At the breaking out of the Civil war he entered the service, becoming first lieutenant of Company G, One Hundred Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served until April 19, 1863, when, not being able to stand the rigors of active campaigning on account of physical disability, he returned home and was appointed colonel of the Second Regiment of Home Guards of Hancock county, in which position he continued to serve as long as the regiment preserved its organization. James Gilkay Pendleton, father of Darius, was born in 1783 on Long Island, Maine, located in Licking county, Ohio, and continued to reside there until his death, which occurred August 8, 1867. The father of the last mentioned was Gideon Pendleton, a large owner of real estate on Long Island, Maine, and also extensively engaged in the shipping industry, owning a number of vessels. The family is of English origin and traces its genealogy to the sixteenth century. The emigrant ancestor was Major Brian Pendleton, who came to America ten years after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock.

George F. Pendleton, heir to this long line of worthy forefathers, passed the period of his boyhood upon the farm, and received his education prin-

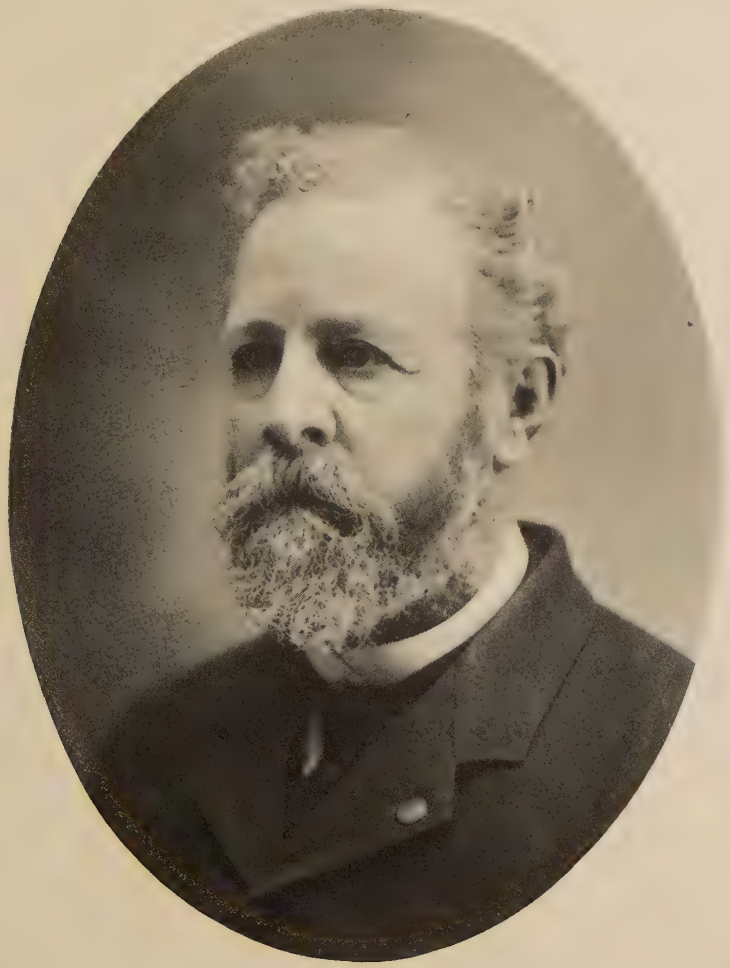
cipally in schools at Stanley, Putnam county, Ohio, and near McComb, Hancock county, Ohio. The father of our subject had in 1849 yielded to the gold excitement and in the spring of 1850 went to California. He returned in 1851, and removed from his previous location in Union township to a tract of two hundred acres in Blanchard township, in Hancock county. Here at the immature age of fifteen our subject began work for himself, using that stepping stone in the lives of so many of our prominent men—the school room. He taught in the winter and worked on the farm in the summer until August, 1862, when he closed his school at Union Center and responded to the call of his country for asistance in preserving the Union. August 19, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, of which his father, Darius Pendleton, was first lieutenant and his brother John a private. After a year's service as private in this company our subject was advanced to the position of corporal, in which he served in the company and on detached service until he was mustered out on June 5, 1865, at Columbus, Ohio. Our subject, after remaining with his company for the first fifteen months, was detailed to act as chief clerk of the brigade commissary, and shortly afterward was advanced to the position of chief clerk of the post commissary, with headquarters at Kingston, Tennessee. After the war Mr. Pendleton returned to Nashville, Tennessee, where he assisted in closing the military accounts of different officers. In August, 1865, his health compelled him to resign, and he returned to his home in Hancock county, where he resumed his work of teaching. In 1867 he was appointed chief deputy in the office of C. B. Wilson, internal revenue collector for the seventh district of Ohio, with headquarters at Findlay, and in this office he passed the two following years. Having made up his mind to adopt the law as a profession, he at that time entered the office of Brown & Anderson in Findlay, and after doing the requisite amount of reading, passed the examination and was admitted by the supreme court of Ohio to the bar, at the December term in 1870. A partnership was at once formed with W. H. Anderson, who was the junior member of the above firm, the firm name being Anderson & Pendleton, which continued with a year's intermission, until 1876. At that time the partnership was dissolved, and our subject connected himself with Hon. Henry Brown, the senior member of the firm who had been his preceptors. This partnership continued for a period of two years, after which time Mr. Pendleton practiced alone until 1883. He had taken a very active interest in the campaigns of the party, and as a recognition of his services he was elected common pleas judge for the tenth district in October of that year. In this office he served for a period

of seven years, during which he established a reputation for the correct administration of justice, which but few have equalled. He left this office in February, 1890, and again resumed the practice of law, in which he has been continuously engaged since that date. Mr. Pendleton has served in a number of public positions, all of which he has filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. About 1867 he was appointed county school examiner for Hancock county, in which position he served for a period of seven years, at the same time acting as examiner for the city schools of Findlay. From April, 1870, to the same date in 1872, he officiated as mayor of the city of Findlay, and from January 1, 1872, to January 1, 1876, covering a period of two terms, he was prosecuting attorney of Hancock county.

May 2, 1871, Mr. Pendleton was married in Hancock county, to Emma F., the daughter of George W. Galloway, who died in 1874, leaving no issue. The second marriage of Mr. Pendleton occurred in Middletown, Ohio, December 14, 1877, when he led to the altar Mary B., daughter of Joseph Sutphin. The Sutphin family came from New Jersey to Ohio. John Sutphin, the grandfather of Mrs. Pendleton, who was a large landowner of Warren and Butler counties, Ohio, died in Middletown, Ohio, at an advanced age. Joseph Sutphin, the father of Mrs. Pendleton, was a prominent flour and paper manufacturer of Middletown, Ohio, and died there at about seventy-five years of age. The mother of Mrs. Pendleton was Miss Caroline Johnston, a native of Ohio, who died in Cincinnati at more than seventy years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton have four children: Charles S., who graduated at Oberlin College, in 1901, and who is now professor of English at that institution; Emma G.; George F., Jr.; and Chester. Mr. Pendleton is a prominent and worthy member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church.

AARON J. GLATHART.

It some times happens that though a man may wander over a considerable territory in the course of his life, that he will turn like a magnet to his birthplace and early environments and spend his remaining years as he began them. Farm life at the time when Aaron J. Glathart was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, February 14, 1844, was not what it is to-day. The hardships and work of those early days sent many a young man away from home to seek his fortune in other fields. For every pound of produce in those days meant a disproportionate amount of toil to secure it, so that there is



A. J. Glathart
And Wife

small wonder that so many young men left the farm as soon as they found a way to do so.

As his name would indicate, Mr. Glathart is of Swiss parentage, his father having emigrated from Switzerland, and directly to Hancock county in 1828, at the age of twenty-six. He lived the remainder of his life in Hancock county, where in connection with farming he had followed the trade of a stone mason. He was one of the men who helped build the old Erie canal. His wife was Susannah von Kannall before her marriage, and their family consisted of eleven children, of whom three survive, being Jeremiah H.; Elizabeth G., widow of William L. Wisley; and Aaron J. They gave three of their sons to their adopted country, the older one being Rudolph H., who was killed on Brazos river, Texas, in May, 1865, by guerrilla Confederates. Manassa C., who was a scout under General Lyons, was killed at Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861. Leon L. Glathart, the third of these patriotic sons, was a private in Company C, Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, having enlisted at Findlay in January, 1864, and died of smallpox at Chattanooga, Tennessee, February 29, 1864.

The life of Mr. Glathart is an exceedingly interesting one, it having been full of both romance and danger, showing a surprising amount of pluck and courage all the way through. When but a boy of fifteen he went west to Lawrence, Kansas, where an older brother, J. H. Glathart, was running a bakery and provision store. The younger brother immediately went into his brother's business and in 1859 was taken into partnership. In the early part of 1860 the firm sold out, and Aaron returned to Hancock county, in which year his father's death occurred. In August, 1861, Aaron J. Glathart enlisted as a private in a company formed at Findlay, being Company H, Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Corps, army of the Tennessee, and his service in the war of the Rebellion is equaled by few of his countrymen for valor and hardships. He was engaged in many battles, some of them the most notable of the war, including Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Siege of Corinth, Morning Sun, Tennessee, Wolf Creek Bridge, Tallahatchee, Holly Springs, Mississippi; Chickasaw Bayou, Yazoo Pass, Mississippi; Arkansas Post, Arkansas; second expedition to Chickasaw Bayou; Steele's Bayou, Deer Creek, Mississippi; running the batteries at Vicksburg on the ram Queen of the Wesst on April 16, 1863; Raymond, Mississippi; Jackson, Mississippi—the first and second battles; Champion Hills; Big Black River, Mississippi, May 17, 1863; Siege of Vicksburg, May 18 to July 4; Chattanooga; Missionary Ridge; Knoxville, Tennessee; Snake Creek Gap, Dalton, Resaca, Kingston, New Hope Church, Big Shanty, Kenesaw

Mountain, Pumpkin Vine Creek and Atlanta, Georgia. On July 19, 1864, the army of the Tennessee swung around Atlanta, and about 4 p. m. on the 22d, just after General McPherson was killed, he was captured and sent to Andersonville prison, where he was held from July 25 to October 1, 1864. He was then sent to Savannah and held about two weeks, and from there sent to Millen, Georgia, and held until about the first of December, when he was sent to Charleston, South Carolina, and there placed under the fire of the Federal batteries. His lucky star never deserted, or perhaps it would be more truthful to say his pluck never failed him, and after being held at Charleston three or four days he was sent to Florence, South Carolina, to a new stockade. He was paroled in the last part of December, 1864, and sent to the hospital at Annapolis. At that place he received a furlough and returned home in a very bad conditon, being unable to speak aloud for seven months. But he could not be contented to stay at home, and at great risk to himself he went to Richmond, Virginia, where he rejoined his regiment, and with it participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., filling his old position of color bearer, which he had held for the last fourteen months of his service, and carrying the battle scarred flag of his regiment. Another incident which showed his indomitable courage and pluck was when on May 19, 1863, he was severely wounded in the abdomen. The wound was of a peculiar nature, a ball having pierced through twenty-seven thicknesses of his rubber blanket and a heavy brass belt plate, this ball and plate being now a dearly appreciated heir-loom in the family. He was immediately sent to the hospital, but on the same evening, he escaped the guards and crawled back to the battle field, accompanying his regiment on a forced march up the Yazoo. However the wound did not heal and later became so serious that he was unable to carry a gun or wear a belt. He was assigned to light duty about camp, and was made camp postmaster. He positively refused to go to the hospital, preferring to stick to his regiment and take the fortunes of war as they came. He was mustered out on August 25, 1865, at Little Rock, Arkansas, being at that time color bearer and postmaster of his regiment. He returned to Findlay broken in health, but remembering the healthy life of the western frontier and being inured to the outdoor life, he set resolutely to work to recover his health, and went to Kansas and camped on the prairie for three months. He again went to Lawrence and went into the auctioneering and second-hand furniture business. A year later he bought a farm near Lawrence and remained there some six years, but his faith in Ohio had not wavered, and in 1874 he returned to his native county, where he farmed

until 1897, when he retired and moved to Findlay, where he has resided ever since.

His faithful wife, who has shared his fortunes and misfortunes, was Amanda J., daughter of Anthony W. and Mary J. (McRill) Strother, and whose great uncle, Robert Strother, was a soldier of Revolutionary war fame, from the colony of Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Glathart have seven children: Lena B., the wife of Captain T. L. Huston, Second United States Engineers; Harry A.; Floy M., wife of Levi K. Harvitt; Edna E., wife of Samuel H. Warren, died August 25, 1897; Rolland L.; Gail J., wife of Harry Riemund; and Carl A. Rolland L. Glathart was a private in Company A, Second Ohio Infantry, in the Spanish-American war, enlisting in March, 1898, with his company, of which he had been a member since April 21, 1897. He served eleven months, holding the rank of sergeant when mustered out, having received his promotion on August 1, 1898. He was located in the camps at Knoxville, Chickamagua and Macon, Georgia. Carl A. Glathart enlisted in the United States navy June 6, 1900, and was immediately assigned to the training ship Essex, where he remained a year. His second assignment was on the battleship Alabama, and he is now with that ship.

The only order to which Mr. Glathart pays allegiance is that of Stoker Post No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic, in which he is a time-honored and much esteemed member. In politics he is of Republican faith, in the ranks of which party he is a conscientious voter. He does not associate with any religious body.

CHRISTIAN HEYN.

Christian Heyn, editor and proprietor of the Wochenblatt, a weekly German newspaper, published at Findlay, Ohio, was born in Elgersburg, Thuringia, Saxony, in 1859, and he is a son of Christian Heyn, who was a native of Manebach, Germany, born in 1832. He came with his family to America in 1886, and died in 1894, at Findlay, where his widow still resides.

Our subject came to America in 1881 and located in Cincinnati, where he started the first mask factory in the United States, which he carried on for three years, selling to other parties at the end of that time. In 1884 he came to Findlay, where many of the most highly esteemed citizens are of German birth, and again started a mask factory, which business is still carried on under the name of the American Mask Manufacturing Company. After four years Mr. Heyn sold his interest in the factory and bought an interest in the newspaper of which he became sole owner a year

later. He is an independent Democrat and his journal is conducted in the interest of that party, but aside from politics, it is a paper of great merit and general interest.

In 1885 our subject was married, in Findlay, to Miss Clara Dietsh, and their two daughters were named Hilde and Emilie. Mrs. Heyn died March 1, 1892, at the age of thirty-seven years. In fraternal connection Mr. Heyn is a Mason of the blue lodge, and his religious association is with the German Lutheran church.

MAJOR BRIGHT.

One of the large landowners and successful agriculturists of Hancock county is Major Bright, who is descended from old pioneers of the county, prominent in business and public affairs. Our subject's grandparents were Major and Deborah (Moore) Bright, both natives of Maryland, who came to Hancock county in 1829, when there was little evidence of its becoming the great country it now is. The family first made their home in Fairfield county but later removed to this county. Mr. Bright was a hard-working man and when he came to this state he had little personal property and no real estate; but he entered a thousand acres of government land and by his industry soon possessed valuable interests, which were subsequently divided among his children. He was a man of some influence and held one of the important public offices of the county. He died about 1845, and his wife in 1879 at ninety-three years of age. Of the ten children of the family some became prominent citizens in the county.

One of the sons of the above family was Nimrod, who was born in Fairfield county in 1813, but came with his father to this county. He inherited four hundred acres from his father and to this added fourteen hundred acres more, at the time of his death his property being worth thirty thousand dollars. He was a man of strong convictions and not easily changed from his ideas of right, and that he was a good business man is shown by his large property. He was one of the influential members of the United Brethren church, and in his early years he was a Democrat in political belief, but about the time of the formation of the Republican party he joined its ranks. His death occurred December 27, 1893. He had been married three times, in June, 1833, to Harriet Wisely, who died in 1860, the mother of nine children, of whom seven are living. His second wife was Margaret Flack, who bore him two children, one living. For his third wife he took the sister of his second wife, Julia A., who is now (1902) living; by this marriage were four born, of whom two are living.

Major Bright & Wife

Major Bright, the subject of this sketch, is a son of the first marriage, being born on July 23, 1835, in Big Lick township, Hancock county. He was reared and educated in his native township, also at Westerville, in Franklin county. He inherited his share of his father's estate, to the amount of three hundred and twenty acres and to this he later added two hundred and forty acres more. He now owns and operates three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Amanda township and is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the county.

In 1856 Mr. Bright was married to Sarah S. Firman, the daughter of Erastus and Kesiah W. Firman, of Delaware county; she was born in Licking county, December 11, 1834. Of the four children born to them three are now living: Elizabeth A., now Mrs. Ewing; Emma Lois, the wife of Edgar Wilcox; and Nimrod W., a prominent man of the county and a candidate for probate judge. The Bright family are members of the United Brethren church, in which Mr. Bright has served as class leader, steward, superintendent and teacher of the Sunday-school. In politics the members of the family hold the views of the Republican party.

GEORGE W. PETERS.

The subject of this sketch is of Virginia ancestry and comes of a family whose descendants have long been settled in Ohio. His grandfather, Ambrose Peters, came with his wife from the Old Dominion in 1849 and first settled in Jefferson county, Ohio, but later removed to Hancock county, buying land in Washington township, a part of which afterward became the site on which the town of Arcadia now stands. The family of Ambrose Peters consisted of ten children: Ann, deceased wife of J. Laughlin; Catherine, deceased wife of Joseph Dillery; John; Abraham; Mary, wife of Seth Smith; Elizabeth, wife of George Taylor; David; Susan, wife of John Ribley; Middleton and Sabina (both deceased). John Peters, third of the above enumerated children, was born in Virginia, February 5, 1829, and was consequently twenty years old when his parents reached Ohio. October 9, 1851, he married Cynthia McFadden, by whom he had eight children: Ambrose, married to Elizabeth Ewing; Christena J., wife of John C. Thomas; Amos W., married Rosa Kamp; George W., subject of this sketch; Ida, Abraham L., Alice and David. Six of these are residents of Hancock county. The father settled in Big Lick township, where he accumulated several hundred acres of land, some of which he gave to his children, and with his wife is living at his old homestead in the enjoyment of a serene old age.

His son, George W. Peters, was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, July 10, 1860, and was trained to farm life from childhood. At the present time he owns and operates a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Big Lick township and ranks as one of the progressive agriculturists of the county. All of his adult years have been spent in agricultural pursuits and he has been successful in his business, as the result of industry, combined with good judgment and good management. August 18, 1882, Mr. Peters was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Kinsel, a native of Big Lick township, where her birth occurred August 31, 1863. The children resulting from this union, four in number, are as follows: Nellie, born July 23, 1884; Edna, born January 14, 1886; Wilber, born March 15, 1887; and Clara, who was born October 11, 1899, and died September 13, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Peters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which the former has held the position of steward. The Peters family, both of the older and younger generations, during their long connection with Hancock county affairs, have always enjoyed good standing as friends, neighbors and citizens. They have contributed their full share to that agricultural development which has given Hancock county prominence for its fine stock, well cultivated fields and beautiful country homes.

ALBERT L. EWING.

Among the younger generation of farmers in Hancock county none stand better or have made better use of their opportunities than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. The family has long been identified with the affairs of Hancock county and three generations of the name have contributed their share toward its growth and prosperity. It was about the year 1832 that William Ewing came with his wife and young children to Ashland county, Ohio, where he settled and remained a number of years. During this period he visited Hancock county and being pleased with its outlook, purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land. This property he eventually gave to his children and eighty acres went to his son, John D. Ewing, who later traded the same for a farm in Big Lick township. John D. was born September 7, 1822, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was only ten years old when his parents settled in Ashland county. He was a man of intelligence and after locating in Hancock county rose to positions of influence, holding the offices of land appraiser, township trustee and treasurer. His religious affiliations were with the Presbyterian church, his politics Democratic and he ended his days on his farm in Big Lick township February 4,

1901. In early life John D. Ewing had married Martha E. Cooper, with whom he lived happily until the time of her death, which occurred February 14, 1881. They became the parents of four children: Amanda J., Sarah E., A. P. and A. L. Ewing. The latter, who is the immediate subject of this sketch, was born on the home farm in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, January 23, 1861. He was reared and trained on the farm which he now occupies and there is little connected with the details of practical agriculture which he has not learned from experience. At the present time he owns one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is in excellent condition and exhibits the evidences of scientific cultivation, painstaking care and other signs of good husbandry. Mr. Ewing has been successful in his ventures, his farm has yielded him fair returns and he has received the reward which seldom fails to follow intelligent labor backed by cool judgment. In 1884 Mr. Ewing was united in marriage with Miss Eva R., the estimable daughter of William and Rachel Warren, the former of whom was a successful farmer, who died at the age of sixty-two years. This union has proved congenial in every way, and the happy household of Mr. and Mrs. Ewing is the meeting place of many friends who are always entertained in the most cordial and hospitable manner. Mr. Ewing is of Scotch-Irish descent through his father, and of German extraction on the Cooper side.

HENRY C. SMITH.

Henry C. Smith is one who owes his own advancement entirely to his enterprising efforts. He has steadily worked his way upward until he is now manager of the carpet department for the firm of J. S. Patterson & Sons, in their store at Findlay. His parents were William H. and Caroline (Glick) Smith, natives of Germany, where he was born in 1838 and she in 1842. They came to this country in early life, where he pursued the cabinetmaker's trade with success and they are now enjoying the fruits of their industry in quiet retirement. Their son, Henry C., was born in December, 1859, at Findlay, was graduated in the high school in 1879, and after putting aside his text books entered upon his business career, his first year being spent in the employment of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad Company. In 1882 he entered the store of Patterson & Sons, in which he accepted the position of clerk and utility man, but his willingness to work, his close application and fidelity to duty led continuously to promotion, until in 1894 he was made manager of the carpet department and has since served in this capacity.

In 1891, in Findlay, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Leotia

A. Keltner, and they now have two children: Agnes E., born September 3, 1892, and Herbert L., born March 14, 1897. Orlando Keltner, father of Mrs. Smith, was a son of Isaiah Keltner, a veteran of the Mexican and Civil wars, who is still living at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mr. Smith votes with the Democracy and has served as a member of the library board of this city. Socially he is connected with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of Korassan. In business he is found as a genial, obliging and courteous salesman, and in all relations of life he manifests strong fidelity to honorable principles, so that he has gained the esteem and confidence of a large circle of friends.

LEVI FALK.

Levi Falk is one of the prominent business men of the village of Mount Cory, Ohio, and certainly merits mention among the men of action and progress who have been the principal forces in the growth and development of Hancock county within the past half century. While his life has not been filled with the eventful scenes which add color to the history of many men, yet, as history proves that the nation without war-burdened and sensational annals is the most prosperous, so in individuals the busy man who does his work carefully and conscientiously may have no record that would appeal to the imagination of the novelist; and Mr. Falk is pre-eminently a busy man, and although he is not the oldest man in the thriving little town of Mount Cory, he is said to be the oldest business man in the limits of that corporation.

Gideon and Hannah (Kemerer) Falk were the parents of our subject; they were both natives of the state of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1811 and the latter in 1816. In 1848 Gideon removed with his father Mathias to Hancock county, and the former located in section 22 of Union township, where he bought two hundred and forty acres of land, some of which was partially improved. He began at once the work of improvement and cultivation and he was one of the pioneers to whom much credit is due for the reclaiming of the wilderness and the breaking of the virgin soil. He possessed rare business qualifications, and his advice and counsel were often sought by his neighbors. And not only was he an expert farmer and a keen, foresighted business man, but he had those characteristics which allowed his fellow-citizens to designate him by that high title of "a good man," in which is summed up the estimate of one's influence toward the cause of all that is high and noble and true. He and his wife were members of the

Maggie M. Falk.

Levi Parks

Evangelical church, and he was a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party. His death occurred in 1892, when he was eighty-one years old, and his good wife died in 1901, aged eighty-six years. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom grew to maturity and three are living at present, Levi and his sister being residents of this county.

Levi Falk was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1847, and was therefore one year old when he was brought by his parents to Hancock. He owes much to the careful training which he received at the hands of his father and mother and he made good use of the golden opportunities which lie before the feet of every youth, in the school-room, in his recreation and in the performance of his set tasks. His first important business enterprise was the operating of an elevator and grist-mill combined. This plant had been built at Mount Cory some years before by Dr. H. P. Eaton and operated by him; he was succeeded by Zay & Runkle, and they by Mr. Falk in 1877. Mr. Falk was very successful in this enterprise and he continued its operation up to 1895, in which year it was destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt. He next began making extensive deals in hay, shipping it to various points, but in 1902 he discontinued his active business career, and while he is too young and vigorous to go on the retired list, he takes life more leisurely and does not find it necessary to push forward with the energy he has displayed in the past. He owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township, which he purchased in 1894, and he now oversees the cultivation of its crops.

In 1871 Mr. Falk was united in marriage to Miss Maggie M. Zay, the daughter of William E. and Margaret Zay; she was born in Germany in 1847, of which country Mr. Falk's ancestors were also natives. Mr. and Mrs. Falk have no children. They are members of the Protestant Methodist church at Mount Cory; he is one of the popular citizens of the township and has been chosen to the office of treasurer for several terms. He is a man of many sterling qualities and well deserves his success. In politics, he has been a life-long Republican and is a member of Mt. Cory Lodge, No. 495, Knights of Pythias.

JOHN MONTGOMERY.

This gentleman, who is at present a retired farmer living at Bluffton, Ohio, is a worthy member of an interesting family, whose history carries us back to the most exciting times of the pioneer period. John Montgomery, the young Irishman whose emigration led to the founding of this family in

America, came over in the eighteenth century, at a time sufficiently early to enable him to take part in the Revolutionary war as a soldier under Washington. He made his way to southwestern Pennsylvania, where his descendants lived during the time when there was almost constant conflict between the white and red men in the frontier regions bordering the Ohio river. William Montgomery, son of the Irish emigrant and Revolutionary patriot, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, but found his way at an early age to the nearby county of Columbiana, just across the river in Ohio. There he married Sarah, daughter of William Fouts, also from Pennsylvania, engaged in farming and followed that occupation until his death, at the age of eighty-seven years, his wife living to celebrate her eighty-third birthday. This pioneer couple had twelve children, five sons and seven daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. John Montgomery, the venerable farmer whose biography is the main object of this writing, was the fourth child and eldest son in the family above mentioned. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, February 1, 1824, and remained on the farm in his native hills until a year or two after reaching his majority. In 1847 he came to Hancock county and took up his residence in a log cabin situated on unimproved land in Orange township. Mr. Montgomery was young and robust, was not afraid of work and thus the task before him did not seem so appalling as it does to a modern "tenderfoot." He set resolutely to the business before him, which was to convert a lot of heavily-wooded and partly submerged land into a farm fit for cultivation. This, of course, involved an immense amount of labor and no end of worry, as they say in the country, but by patience and unflagging industry Mr. Montgomery eventually accomplished his object. The result is now before any one who visits that section in the shape of a well cleared, well fenced and well ordered farm of the modern Ohio type, with its neat residence, commodious outbuildings and all other essentials of up-to-date agriculture. After continuing in the business over sixty years Mr. Montgomery decided that he had done his share and was entitled to a rest. In 1891 he turned the farm over to his sons and located at Bluffton, where he lived retired from all active business and free from worrying pursuits of every kind. No one of his means did more than Mr. Montgomery to build up and civilize Orange township, and his long life there was made useful in many ways, not only to himself and family, but to the public.

February 18, 1847, Mr. Montgomery was married in his native county to Eleanor McClain, who had come there from Greene county, Pennsylvania, where she was born November 12, 1827. She was the daughter of a Pennsylvania farmer named David McClain, who married Rebecca West and later

removed to Ohio, where they reared a family of ten children, consisting of three sons and seven daughters. Mrs. Montgomery, the third child and second daughter, when nine years old was brought from Pennsylvania by her parents to Wyandot county, Ohio, and spent all of her subsequent life in different parts of the state. By her marriage to Mr. Montgomery she became the mother of seven children, but of these only three are now living: Rebecca, wife of William Kinnel, is a resident of Bluffton; Jesse S. and F. Marion are farmers in Orange township; Eliza, William and Alice, the first, second and seventh born, respectively, are deceased. Mr. Montgomery, as previously stated, retired from business some years ago and left the farm in charge of his sons. During his active career he held various township offices, including those of trustee, treasurer and assessor, and for a long period was one of the principal men in reclamation of the land comprising Orange township and in building up that portion of Hancock county.

MELVIN E. EWING.

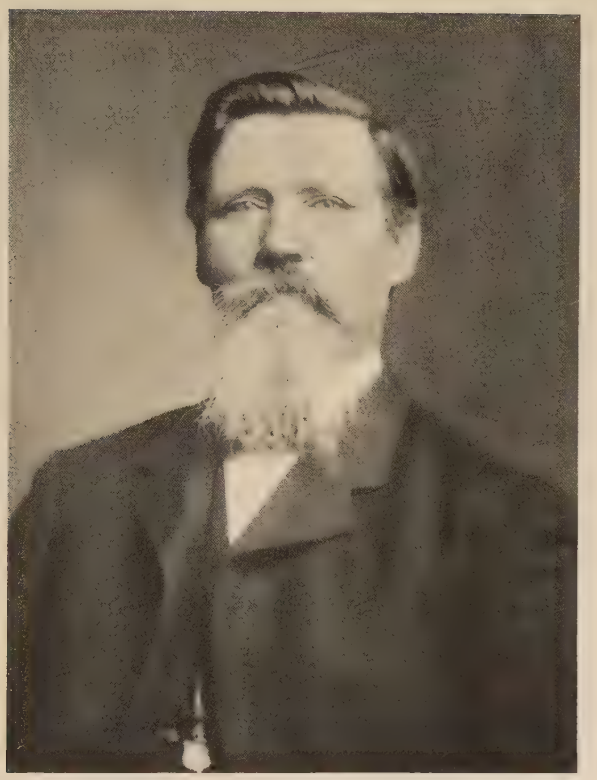
During the latter part of the eighteenth century, there lived in Ireland a hard working and honest mechanic by the name of William Ewing. Wearying of rack-rents, oppressive landlords and the other ills which "Patient merit of the unworthy takes," this poor peasant determined to seek refuge in the land of freedom across the deep sea. Accordingly, about the year 1800, he made his appearance in America and found a hospitable welcome in the state of Maryland, where he worked for a while at his trade as a mason. He married Miss Polly England, removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, cultivated a small farm and reared a family of eight children, all of whom did well and reached places of prominence in various occupations. Samuel Ewing, one of his sons, born in 1811, was married in Fairfield county to Rebecca Alspach and in 1834 removed to Hancock county, where he purchased and improved one hundred and twenty acres of land in Amanda township. Samuel was a brickmaker and manufactured the first brick that were made in that part of the country where he had settled. He was a man of upright life and industrious habits, a class leader and steward in the Methodist Protestant church, and altogether his life may be pronounced an unusually prosperous one. He accumulated considerable property and some time before his death, which occurred in 1878, he had sold his farm and retired from business after making suitable provision for his children. His wife, who was of the same age as her husband, having been born in 1811, outlived him ten years and passed away in 1888. Of their seven children four are living and included in this

number is William E. Ewing, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1836. He grew up on his father's farm in Amanda township and eventually became the owner of seventy-three acres of land on which he has resided during his entire life, with the exception of four years. He is regarded as a good farmer as well as a worthy citizen, belongs to the United Brethern church and has served his township in various offices of trust and responsibility. In 1856 he married Lydia Cross, who died June 28, 1859, leaving one son, Melvin E. In 1861 Mr. Ewing espoused Sarah E. Beck, who died in 1873 without issue. His third wife, with whom he is now living, was Levina Alspach and by this union there is one son, Loren B. Melvin E. Ewing, the subject of this sketch and product of his father's first marriage, was born in Amanda township, Hancock county, Ohio, June 9, 1857, and from that time on has been a continuous resident of his native place. Having grown up on the farm and learned the details of the business, he chose this as his life's work and though he has had his share of the cares and disappointments incident to the calling, on the whole he has been quite successful. In 1885 he made his first purchase of real estate, consisting of the eighty acres which constitute his present home. He was fortunate in the selection of a life partner, having chosen as his bride Miss Lizzie A. Bright, a talented lady who had gained high reputation as an experienced school teacher. Her birth occurred in Delaware county, Ohio, February 2, 1858, and she was married to Mr. Ewing in December, 1882. This union, which has proved in every way congenial and helpful to the contracting parties, has been strengthened by the birth of the following named children: Dressel D., in 1883; Frank W., in 1887; Selwin B., in 1892, and Orin E., in 1894. Dressel is a graduate of the Van Lue school and Frank W. expects to graduate in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing are members of the United Brethren church, in which he has held the position of Sunday-school superintendent, conference delegate, trustee and steward. In fact, both as a church member and a man of affairs, the influence of Melvin E. Ewing has long been recognized in the community of which he is an esteemed member.

DAVID M. DREISBACH.

The above named gentleman, at present a prominent farmer of Blanchard township, is a member of an extensive family long known in various callings, but especially in connection with religious affairs. Both the father and grandfather of Mr. Dreisbach were distinguished ministers of the Evangelical church, and two of his brothers are also ministers of the gospel

MRS. D. M. DREISBACH.



D. M. Dreisbach

of the same denomination. As the genealogy of the family is sketched in connection with Mr. Gabriel M. Dreisbach in another part of this volume, it will not be necessary to repeat all the particulars concerning the earlier branches, but some additional particulars will be given about the more immediate ancestors. The grandparents of our subject were Rev. John and Fannie (Eyer) Dreisbach, who had thirteen children. The former was a pioneer of the infant Evangelical church in Pennsylvania, became its first presiding elder and was instrumental in the organization of its first general conference. He was a man of prominence and influence in his native state, being elected to the legislature and editor of the church paper called the "Evangelical Messenger." He was recognized as a pulpit orator of great power and his fame as a church worker, during his long and blameless life, extended over Pennsylvania and even beyond the limits of his native state. His mantle and many of his personal characteristics descended to his son, Abraham E. Dreisbach, who also became noted in the Evangelical ministry. Born in Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1818, he married Mary A. Miesse, a native of the same state and county, who was two years his junior. Of the ten children born to this union the following named are living: Caroline M., John M., Susanna M., David M., Gabriel M., Cornelius M., Abraham M., Mary A. M., and Benjamin. Daniel, twin brother of the last mentioned, died at an early age. The mother died in 1857, and the husband's second wife was Elizabeth Strome, who died in 1871 without issue. The third wife of Mr. Dreisbach was Sarah Hankey who was also childless. In 1844 Rev. Abraham Dreisbach entered the Evangelical ministry and was for thirty years actively connected therewith. His circuit at one time embraced the counties of Pickaway, Franklin, Delaware, Wyandot, Seneca, Sandusky, Wood and Hancock, and it was his custom to visit them twice a year. Like his father, he rose to a position of influence and was considered one of the leading ministers of the association, being presiding elder for four years. He also achieved a name in literature, and deserved especial credit from the fact that he was entirely self-made and owed all his success to his individual efforts. This good man passed away August 28, 1876, leaving to his children the priceless heritage of an unsullied name. Two of his sons also became ministers of the gospel, John M. belonging to the Evangelical, and Abraham to the ministry of the United Brethren church.

David M. Dreisbach, fourth of the children, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, September 28, 1845, but was reared and educated in Seneca county, where he had been taken by his father when seven years old. In 1868 he came to Hancock county and located on forty acres of land purchased in

Liberty township. Subsequently he sold this farm and moved to Benton Ridge, where he engaged in general merchandising, besides operating a flouring mill in which he owned a half interest. After continuing in these lines until 1871, Mr. Dreisbach purchased eighty acres of land in Findlay township, which he cultivated for the ten following years, and then removed to Delaware township. There he purchased two hundred and forty acres of well improved land which he devoted to the raising of fine stock. At the present time Mr. Dreisbach resides on and operates three hundred and twenty acres of fertile land in Blanchard township, where he is recognized as one of the county's representative agriculturists. He enlisted as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served in the army of the Potomac until honorably discharged in December, 1865. While living in Delaware township he served several years as assessor, and land appraiser, and he has served six years as assessor of Blanchard township.

October 15, 1867, Mr. Dreisbach was united in marriage with Miss Caroline, daughter of Jacob and Mary B. Wagner, of Fairfield county, Ohio. The children resulting from this union are: Lillie W., born in 1869; Silas W., born in 1873; Helen W., in 1875; William H. W., in 1877; Aaron W., in 1879; David W., in 1881; and Arthur W. in 1884. Mr. Dreisbach is a member of the United Brethren church, in which he has held all the offices except that of minister. He also holds membership in the Free and Accepted Masons, the Maccabees and the Grand Army of the Republic, being a popular and esteemed associate in all these fraternal orders.

H. A. BRICKMAN.

This gentleman, who is one of the most prosperous and progressive of the younger generation of farmers in Hancock county, belongs to that element generally designated in this country, German-Americans. His father, Frederick Brickman, was born in Germany in 1833 and married a lady named Frederika Zenkel, whose birth occurred in the same country in 1835. In 1857 not long after their marriage, this worthy German couple concluded to try their fortunes in the "land of the free," and in due time made their way to Hancock county. They located at Arcadia, where they remained six years, and in 1863 removed to Portage township, where Mr. Brickman had purchased a farm of eighty acres. As his affairs prospered his real estate holdings increased until they amounted to the one hundred and seventy-two acres, which are now in possession of his son. Frederick Brickman was a man of more

than average good qualities and commanded universal respect in his community. The fact that he was several times elected to the important office of township trustee shows the estimate put upon his business ability and honesty by his neighbors and constituents. He was a man of moral and upright character and a consistent member of the German Lutheran church, in which he held various responsible offices at different times. His hospitality was of the most cordial kind, he loved to entertain his numerous friends and so many were his acts of charity and assistance in time of need to the deserving that it would be useless to attempt to mention half of them. Few men were more popular and none could count their friends in larger numbers than this kind native of the "vaterland." After a life of usefulness, largely devoted to the happiness of others, this good man passed to his final rest, December 20, 1892. His excellent wife, who shared his joys and sorrows for so many years, survived him only a year or two, her death occurring in 1894. Of their eight children, the only survivors are W. G. and H. A. Brickman. The latter was born on the farm he now owns, in Portage township, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1877, and he received his education in the neighborhood schools. Since reaching manhood he has devoted his entire time to agricultural pursuits and the general appearance of his fine farm shows that he understands his business. He is up-to-date in his methods and keeps well informed as to the various improvements so constantly taking place in modern agriculture. Mr. Brickman devotes his place to general farming and stock raising, depending on the standard crops and natural increase of his herds for the remuneration which seldom fails to come to the industrious farmer. He inherits many of the traits of his excellent father and is one of the popular young men of his township, for whom a prosperous future is freely predicted by his associates. In 1899 Mr. Brickman was united in marriage with Miss Nora, daughter of Peter Kuaile, a young lady of great popularity, attractive manners and a most agreeable personality.

MOSES McANELLY.

No family in Hancock county has been longer or more favorably known than the one which bears the name above transcribed. It was founded by the late Moses McAnelly, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1804 and became a resident of Hancock county in 1836. Before leaving his native state he taught school several years and this occupation he continued for some time after he established his new home in Ohio. He soon found himself able to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land in Big Lick township, which during the

course of his long and industrious life he increased to four hundred acres. His public career, which was destined to be conspicuous for its usefulness and brilliant display of varied ability, commenced in 1839 by his election to the lower house of the Ohio legislature. After two terms in that body, served with constantly increasing popularity, Mr. McAnelly was rewarded by promotion to the state senate, in which he also served two terms most acceptably to his constituents. The districts were then larger than at the present time and the one represented by Mr. McAnelly included five counties of Ohio. In addition to his legislative duties he served various terms as justice of the peace and his judicial responsibility was discharged with the same fidelity and integrity that characterized all of his public work. His affiliations were with the Democratic party, of which he became a conspicuous and influential leader. He was a forcible and eloquent speaker and few men of his day excelled him in the art of convincing his hearers to think as he did. He enjoyed the reputation of being an honest and conscientious public functionary whose efforts were always directed toward rendering the best possible service for the welfare of his constituents. In 1833 he was united in marriage with Mary, daughter of Hon. William and Nancy Roller, a lady of high social rank, whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania, September 28, 1812, and who came to Richland county, Ohio, with her parents at the age of twelve years. The union of Hon. Moses McAnelly and Mary Roller resulted in the birth of eight children, of whom the following named grew to maturity: Lucinda, Charlotte, Moses, Judge Jefferson, Nancy and Mary. The father died October 21, 1854, but his wife long survived him, not passing to her final rest until March 5, 1898, when she closed her career at the advanced age of eighty-five years, five months and five days. Moses McAnelly, his father's namesake and youngest surviving son, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, March 15, 1853, attended the district schools of his township and was trained to farm work from his earliest years. In due time he inherited the paternal homestead and his entire life has been spent in the place of his nativity. He has shown skill in his chosen calling and has so managed his fine estate as to gain recognition as a successful and progressive farmer. He has found time, however, for public duties and has served his constituents six years as township clerk, assessor two terms, and for the last five years has been justice of the peace, an office whose duties he has discharged with marked ability and efficiency. December 15, 1881, Mr. McAnelly was united in marriage with Miss Phebe E., daughter of John and Eliza Cooper, whose family was one of distinction and influence. Her father, Judge John Cooper, was a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, where his birth occurred April 25, 1811. He was the eldest

son of James Cooper, whose paternal ancestry was of Scotch-Irish descent and the maternal progenitors of Holland Dutch stock. John Cooper came with his parents to Perry county, Ohio, in 1812, when he was still an infant. He became a successful farmer, was married December 15, 1830, and two years later settled in Hancock county, where his career was useful and distinguished. He held various important offices in Portage township and in 1849 was appointed associate judge, which honorable position he filled acceptably until the change of the law in 1852. In 1862 he was elected one of the commissioners of Hancock county, and discharged the duties of that office with signal discretion and judgment for six years. He was also one of the first directors of the county infirmary and gave entire satisfaction by his methods of attending to the work devolved upon him by that responsibility. Of his nine children four are still living including his daughter, Mrs. McAnelly, whose birth occurred in Portage township, October 5, 1853. Judge Cooper passed away in 1892 at the venerable age of eighty-one, and his wife, after surviving him two years, terminated her life in 1894. The union of Moses McAnelly and Phebe E. Cooper resulted in the birth of five children: John C., Mary, Thomas H., Roller C. and Lois. He and his wife were attentive members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. McAnelly is connected with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The family move in the best social circles of the county and are widely and favorably known in the section where they reside.

J. L. HIGBIE, M. D.

During his residence of thirteen years at Jenera the above named gentleman has become quite a feature of the village life, not only as a medical practitioner, but because of his prominence in political, social and fraternal affairs. Still in the prime of life and popular with all classes, no movement goes on for the betterment of conditions in the community that Dr. Higbie is not found well to the front doing his full share to help things along. As will be seen later on the public confidence in him has often been expressed by his election to various offices, and Van Buren township has no more energetic or public spirited citizen. In fact he might be properly described as a "worthy son of a worthy sire," as his father, Henry H. Higbie, has long been an influential factor in Allen county and a noted educator of the old school. He was born in Knox county, and the death of his father threw him on his own resources at an early period. Through the assistance of an aunt he was enabled to attend Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, and by diligent appli-

cation succeeded in getting a fair education at that institution. With this equipment as his only capital, aside from his personal qualifications, young Higbie began school teaching at the age of seventeen, and continued in that occupation for twenty-one successive years. During this long period he had for his pupils a whole generation of Ohioans, many of whom subsequently rose to high positions in the different walks of life. Dr. Norton, who became a member of congress from his district, obtained his early education under Professor Higbie's care, and the number of successful business and professional men who got the benefit of his instruction is too large for mention. Besides his work in Ohio he taught for a while in Indiana, and finally located on a farm in Allen county, about five miles east of Lima, where he made a division of his time between teaching and agricultural pursuits. He served as a soldier during the Civil war, has always been found on the right side of important public questions and wherever located was respected as a man of probity and learning. He still resides in Allen county, and occupies a position of influence both among the older and rising generations as a discreet counsellor and well informed man. He married Elizabeth Swaney, who was a native of Allen county, descended from Pennsylvania parents, and four years her husband's junior. By this union there were eight children, all of whom are living but one. Dr. Higbie was the eldest, but as he will be fully noticed later on, only his brothers and sisters will be mentioned at this point. Rev. Frank E. Higbie, the second son, is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, who gives promise of much future usefulness. Birdsell, the third son, remains at home and looks after the affairs of the farm. Dr. William E. Higbie, who is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Cincinnati, is now practicing at Lindsey, Ohio. The three daughters are: Jennie; Addie, wife of Milton Dickinson, of Lima; and Cora, wife of David Warner, of Westminster, Ohio.

J. L. Higbie, eldest of this interesting family, was born on the parental farm in Allen county, Ohio, February 23, 1863, and with such a father it is needless to say he was given a good education. Besides the usual routine in the district schools he had the benefit of a course in the Normal University at Ada, after which he made preparations for what he had decided upon as the work of his life. In 1885 he entered the office of Dr. H. E. Blackstone, who as a graduate of the Ada Normal and the University of Michigan, was well qualified as an instructor in medicine, and remained under his tutelage about three years. Meantime he supplemented his local instruction by attendance at lectures in the St. Louis Medical College, where he received his diploma with the class which graduated March 6, 1888. Returning home

immediately thereafter, Dr. Higbie located in the following year at Jenera, where he has since continued in the active practice of his profession. Dr. Higbie is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, the American Medical Association and of the fraternal order of K. O. T. M. He affiliates with the Democratic party, and has held the offices of treasurer by appointment for two years, justice of the peace by election for five years and in 1900 was elected mayor of Jenera, a position which he still holds. January 22, 1891, Dr. Higbie was united in marriage with Mary E., daughter of Peter Traucht, the latter a native of Germany, who came with his father to Hancock county among the early settlers. Dr. and Mrs. Higbie have three children, Una, Lloyd and Merle, and the family enjoy a cordial welcome in the best social circles of their section.

CORNELIUS EWING.

After a long and industrious life, having fulfilled every duty to state and county and performed his full share in helping forward the growth and development of his adopted county, the gentleman above named is enjoying a period of well earned repose. Having retired from active business, he has lived for fifteen years in comparative retirement at Findlay, the thriving county seat of Hancock county. The family is of foreign lineage, both John and Maria Ewing, the grandparents of Cornelius, being natives of Germany. Jacob and Sophia (Mowery) Ewing, born in Pennsylvania, came to Ashland county, Ohio, in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and there lived many years. In 1854 they removed to Hancock county and located on two hundred and forty acres of land purchased in Liberty township. In the fulness of years, he and his wife ended their lives in Hancock county, beloved and respected by all who knew them. Their family consisted of eight children, of whom there are six survivors and all these residents of Hancock county. Cornelius Ewing, the subject of this sketch, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, April 16, 1824, and was about thirty years old when he took up his abode in Hancock county, where he was destined to lead such an active life. He entered actively into business, worked hard, managed well and has been rewarded by an abundance of this world's goods. At the present time he owns two hundred and eighty-six acres of valuable land, situated in Union and Liberty townships. In the last mentioned township there are fifteen oil wells on Mr. Ewing's property, which yield a handsome and steady revenue, aside from the yield derived through strictly agricultural sources. During his years of activity, Mr. Ewing was a useful citizen in his township, where he

served as assessor and in various other capacities of a public nature. Being a man of excellent judgment and progressive ideas, his advice was often sought and he could always be relied on to assist in advancing every cause which promised to aid the community or advance the general welfare. In 1848 Mr. Ewing was united in marriage with Arminda Ann Sheridan, who died a year later without issue. January 29, 1854, Mr. Ewing took a second wife in the person of Miss Elizabeth A. Inzley, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, September 24, 1833. This union, which has proved an ideally happy one, resulted in the birth of five children: Alvin C., Judson W. (deceased), Harvey G., Clara A. and Philip W. The father of Mrs. Ewing, T. F. Inzley, was born in Pennsylvania in 1808, and died in South Dakota at eighty-two years of age. The mother of Mrs. Ewing was Amelia (Eagle) Inzley, born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1808, and died in Hancock county, Ohio, at seventy-five years of age. Mrs. Ewing is a woman who, by her industry and economy, has largely aided in making and saving the property which forms the basis of the present comfortable financial condition of herself and husband. The family are members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Ewing held the position of elder for several years. He took up his residence in Findlay in 1887, and though he does not worry himself with routine affairs he still keeps up an intelligent supervision of his estate and in his home dispenses a generous hospitality to his friends.

HARRY L. TARBOX.

Harry L. Tarbox, who is the senior member of the firm of Tarbox & McCall, proprietors of the Tarbox & McCall quarries, which are situated at Findlay, Ohio, is one of the successful business men and much esteemed citizens of this city.

Mr. Tarbox is able to trace an honorable ancestry, which, on the maternal side at least, includes one of the most distinguished citizens of the United States. The mother of our subject was Ruth L. Jackson, a daughter of David and Mary Jackson, the former of whom was born on March 3, 1794, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. David's parents were Robert and Elizabeth (McCorkle) Jackson, who were married in 1786. Robert was a son of another David, who was a native of Ireland. This David was the son of Dr. Joseph Jackson, a native of the North of Ireland, by his second wife, and was born in 1730. This David emigrated to America in 1762, located in Chester county, Pennsylvania, followed blacksmithing and farming and died in Lancaster county in the same state. Dr. Joseph Jackson was born

Harry L Tarbox

in 1690 and was twice married, his son by his first wife, Andrew, also emigrating to America. Andrew located, in 1765, in South Carolina, and on March 15, 1767, was born Andrew Jackson, his distinguished son. Thus our subject is but seven generations removed from this great statesman and soldier.

Harry L. Tarbox was born in Cedarville, Ohio, in 1858, his father, Samuel Tarbox, being a native of the state of Maine, his mother being a native of Greene county, Ohio. Samuel Tarbox was for many years extensively engaged in a lumber business, was successful in his enterprises and was always regarded with respect by his neighbors and fellow-citizens. After finishing his education in the district schools of Cedarville, our subject engaged in the saw mill business and continued in the same even after his removal to Findlay, in 1889. In 1898 he formed his present partnership with James A. McCall and since that time has devoted his energies to the development of his fine quarries. These deposits of stone cover an area of fourteen acres, the lime-stone rock extending from two to four hundred feet deep. The product is all in the form of crushed stone. This quarry's output per season reaches one thousand carloads and is shipped all over the country. The firm employs eighteen men.

March 12, 1884, Mr. Tarbox was married to Miss Essie, daughter of Eliphalet and Sarah Daugherty, and born in Cedarville, Greene county, Ohio, in 1860. To this union were born six children: Nellie, Frederick, Belle, Frank, and Edna and Edwin, twins.

Mr. Tarbox has been a useful citizen, has served on the school board with efficiency, and is a Republican in politics. He is a thoroughly reliable business man and one who takes a deep interest in the enterprises which will build up his home. He is giving his children educational advantages and in every way living up to the demands of good citizenship.

JAMES CROSS.

The family of which the above named is one of the strongest representatives, has been identified with Hancock county affairs since 1835. At that early period Elijah and Elizabeth (Wyant) Cross "moved in" from Fairfield county, where they were both born and had grown to maturity, but decided on a change of residence some years after marriage. At the time Elijah came land of the very best quality was to be had in that part of Ohio very cheaply on easy payments, and the newcomer took advantage of the situation to buy from the government three hundred and twenty acres in

Amanda township. Elijah Cross was not only a very worthy man in the ordinary relations of life, but he was in some respects a character remarkable above the average. His strongest characteristic was his religious inclination, which he exhibited throughout life and on all occasions. He threw his home open for the entertainment of the ministers of the United Brethren church, to which he belonged, and kept the latch string hanging out, as the pioneers used to say, for every worthy person and every worthy cause. He was by nature gifted with the power of persuasion, and his exhortations are described as remarkable for one not trained to oratory. He supported the gospel liberally and to the full extent of his means, contributing both to the foreign and home missionary establishments of the denomination to which he belonged. He held every office in the church except that of licensed preacher, and his friends always insisted that had he gone into the pulpit regularly he would have made a high reputation for evangelical oratory. One of his accomplishments was the possession of a voice of singular tone and sweetness, which could be heard distinctly in melodious resonance above all other voices in the congregational singing. By his first wife, who came with him from Fairfield county, Elijah Cross had seven children, but all of these have passed away except the gentleman who furnishes the immediate subject of this biography. The second wife was Charity Essec, who became the mother of five children, none of whom are now living.

James Cross, who, as above stated, is the only survivor of his father's two sets of children, was born on the Hancock county homestead in July, 1840. His father being a farmer, and a good one, the son was taught the best agricultural methods known at that day, and besides had the principles of morality and honest dealing instilled into him by his pious sire. So when he grew up his chief ambition was to have a place of his own, and in due time he succeeded in obtaining possession of ten acres of land in his native township. This little farm was increased from time to time until Mr. Cross found himself the proprietor of one hundred and ten acres of as good land as his neighborhood afforded. It is evident without so stating that he has managed well, and this is indicated by his success and accumulations. In fact "Jim" Cross, as his friends call him, understands his business thoroughly, is shrewd in his bargaining and knows how to get the best possible results from his general farming and stock-raising.

In 1865 Mr. Cross was united in marriage to Mary A., daughter of Benjamin and Christina (Kitsmiller) Shull, old residents of Logan county, where her birth occurred in 1843. The four children of this union are Ida, Clifton, Ada and Clarence, who share with their parents the good will of those

who are intimate with the Cross family and know their good qualities. Considering the religious record of his father, we naturally expect to find Mr. Cross and wife in the United Brethren church, and such is the fact, as they are not only members in good standing but enthusiastic as contributors to the general work of the denomination.

RAYMOND COLE.

During his life time, the subject of this sketch gained success as a farmer and business man, but what is far more valuable, he earned the title of an honest man and a good citizen, an affectionate husband and father. The family from which he sprung were long settled in Delaware and his grandfather, Perry Cole, died in that state during the earlier half of the nineteenth century. He left a son named James, who married Rachel Webster, and with her migrated from their state to Ohio, locating at Huron, in Erie county, about 1835. At a later period they resided for a while in Richland county, but subsequently went to Ashland and from there to Hancock county, where they remained as permanent residents. Their son, Raymond Cole, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, March 5, 1846, was eighteen years old when his parents came to Hancock county in 1864. He soon established for himself a reputation as a young man of industrious habits and an unusual shrewdness in business. He saved money and in 1872 was able to make his first purchase of land, the same being a tract of eighty acres in Big Lick township. Selling this he purchased forty acres of land in the same township, adjoining a farm of two hundred acres owned by his wife's parents, for which they gave them a deed. Locating on this farm he proceeded to improve it and get it under a state of good cultivation, also erecting a beautiful residence, in which his widow and daughter now reside. Raymond Cole was a man of temperate habits, an exemplary member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in every way a citizen without reproach. In business affairs he exhibited that cool judgment which invariably accompanies the successful man. He held the position of steward in his church, trustee of the camp-meeting ground of that denomination and in every way exercised a wholesome influence in his community, always being interested in and providing for the wants of the needy and unfortunate. Mr. Cole was especially fortunate in the selection of a wife and in his marriage relations. In early manhood he became acquainted with Miss H. Kate Ward, which acquaintance ripened into affection and led to their marriage, April 1, 1875. The parents of Mrs. Cole were N. H. and Eliza (McCalla) Ward, both natives of Pennsylvania,

where their births occurred in 1812 and 1814, respectively. In youth Mr. Ward went with his parents to Columbiana county, Ohio, where he remained until 1834 and then removed to Findlay. In that place he opened a merchant tailoring establishment, and being an excellent mechanic as well as a shrewd man of affairs, his business flourished and he became quite popular with a large list of patrons. He remained in Findlay many years and his financial success enabled him to purchase four hundred and sixty acres of excellent farming land. By his first marriage with a Miss Bayless Mr. Ward had one child, now deceased; by a second marriage with a Miss Leonard he also had one child, now dead; by his third marriage there were three children, the two survivors being Mrs. H. Kate Cole and A. J. Ward, the latter now occupying his father's homestead farm. After the death of his second wife, which occurred in Findlay, the elder Mr. Ward removed to Columbiana county, Ohio, where he lived for some years, the births of several of his children occurring there. Eventually he returned to Hancock county and died there January 9, 1888, on the homestead farm, his last wife passing away February 3, 1901. He was a man of moral and upright life, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in the performance of all duties an example of good citizenship. The union of H. Kate Ward and Raymond Cole resulted in the birth of two children, of whom Frosa McL. is the only one living. Mr. Cole died October 16, 1900.

JOHN SCHUBERT.

Casper Schubert, who was born at Bremen, Germany, about 1792, concluded a few years after his marriage to one of the neighboring "frauleins" that America offered better opportunities for fame and fortune than any country of the old world. After frequently talking it over with his wife they decided to make the venture, and one fine day in 1835 found them embarking for the new world from one of the ports of Germany. Crossing the Atlantic in those days was quite a different thing from what it is in this age of ocean greyhounds, which compass the distance from shore to shore in less than a week's time. When Casper Schubert, his young wife and two little children, embarked for America it was in a slow sailing vessel, which took three months to make the passage. And a journey of that length in the steerage of an ocean sailer was anything but an enticing undertaking. Water was scarce, provisions short and sleeping bunks uncomfortable to the last degree. The Schuberts long remembered the discomforts of this tedious voyage, and in after years often entertained their children, as they sat around

the family fireside, with stories of their hardships and wearisome watching for land. Eventually the ship touched dock in New York harbor, and the little party of German emigrants walked feebly ashore to face the new problems awaiting them in this new and untried country. Without much delay they headed for Ohio, and as there were as yet no railways, this, too, proved a tiresome and exasperating journey. At length, however, the little party reached their destination and found themselves "all at sea" in the wilds of Crawford county. But Casper Schubert was not a man to be discouraged by ordinary difficulties, and he lost no time in securing some government land, on which he went resolutely to work, with his neighbors consisting principally of wolves and Indians. With German foresight he had brought along with him a few farming tools from the old country, which proved of great value in tilling his wild land. In order to support his family while the first crops were growing Casper worked on the turnpikes then being constructed in the county, and with the money thus earned managed to pull through till harvest time. About 1845 he sold his Crawford county holdings and made a new investment in Big Spring township, of what was then Seneca county. On the farm of eighty acres thus secured he lived in peace and comfort until his death, which occurred in 1888, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. His wife and faithful companion had long preceded him to the grave, her death having taken place as early as 1873. This worthy couple were such stanch members of the German Lutheran church as to be regarded as the main pillars of the edifice and were generally at the front when donations were needed to help along worthy enterprises. Besides the two children who accompanied them from Germany six others were born to them after the settlement in this country.

Leander Schubert, one of the boys who crossed the ocean with his parents, was born in Germany in 1823, and consequently had reached his twelfth year when the memorable voyage was entered upon. After reaching America he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed with more or less assiduity during the whole of his life, but he also farmed a good deal and, with the assistance of his sons, accumulated landed property amounting to three hundred acres. He was a first-class mechanic, whose services were always in demand, and also ranked as one of the township's useful and enterprising citizens. Occasionally he consented to fill a township office, but as a general thing preferred to attend to his own private business. Leander Schubert was united in marriage with Susan Grove, by whom he had eight children, but only six of these are now living and only two are residents of Hancock county. A life-long member of the German Baptist church, he served as its treasurer

for many years and took an active part in all the religious work of this denomination. By his death, which occurred in the fall of 1899, the people of his community realized that they had lost a kind neighbor and a useful man in all the relations of life.

John Schubert, son of Leander, was born on the ancestral homestead in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1852, and was reared and educated in Big Lick township. He inherited the industrious traits of his forefathers, also their taste and talent for agriculture, and at an early day took quite naturally to farming pursuits. As he grew up he studied the business both practically and theoretically, watched the latest inventions and improvements, and by reading caught a glimpse of progressive and scientific agriculture. He began business on a very modest scale at first, but soon showed adaptability and a knowledge of trading which have brought him to the front and enabled him to show steady progress in his accumulations. After various deals in real estate, both as a seller and buyer, he finally purchased and in 1886 settled upon his present fine farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres of fertile land in Amanda township. This he has brought into a high state of cultivation and by good farming and good management makes it produce up to the top notch in the way of standard crops and fat stock. December 26, 1878, Mr. Schubert was married to Nancy C., daughter of Abram Rangeler, and a member of an old time family of Big Lick township. The six children resulting from this union are Orpha B., Ernest A., Alletha D., Winnona E., Harry R., and Paul E. Mr. and Mrs. Schubert are members of the United Brethren church, in which he has held the office of steward. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, and he has served the township in various capacities, being a member of the school board for fifteen years.

FRANKLIN WISE.

The Wise family has been identified with Hancock county affairs for sixty years, and during that time its members have figured creditably and conspicuously in various walks of life. The founders of the Ohio branch of this surname were Benjamin and Lydia (Opp) Wise, who came to Hancock county in 1842 and located in Marion township, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. This land was cultivated by such effective methods as to bring its owner a comfortable competence and eventually he rose to a position of influence in his community. This was manifested by his election at various times to township offices, including that of assessor, which he held for several terms. The eight of his eleven children

now living are: Fannie, Vine, Benjamin J., Mary, Sarah, Lydia, Franklin and Dickson, those deceased being Isabelle, Israel and Jane. The mother of this family died in March, 1885, and the father in 1890.

Franklin Wise, next to the youngest of his father's surviving children, was born on the family homestead in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1851, and was reared and educated in Marion township. In 1872, as soon as he had reached his majority, he bought forty acres of land in Big Lick township, but soon disposed of this and purchased another farm in the same locality. In 1885 he bought a tract of fifty-six acres in Amanda township, which was disposed of in 1892 and the proceeds invested in the farm of one hundred and two acres which constitutes his present homestead. It is good land and Mr. Wise, by devoting it to general farming and cultivating as well as managing with care, has met with that success which usually awaits the patient husbandman.

In 1875 he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet, a daughter of James and Mary (Morehart) Van Horn, whose birth occurred in Amanda township in 1852. This union, which has proved in every way congenial and happy, has resulted in the birth of six children, whose names thus appear in the family register: Ella, Maud, Carrie, Charles, Walter, deceased, and Fern. Benjamin J., an elder brother of Mr. Wise, is a well known man in Hancock county, having for thirty-five years been a minister of the gospel in the United Brethren church.

GEORGE W. ROLLER.

The gentleman whose name we here present is a farmer residing in Big Lick township on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. This farm land he devotes to general farming. He was born in Big Lick township, August 26, 1858, the son of Michael and Elizabeth (Swindler) Roller. His life has been passed in the township, it being the uneventful one of those who live in the country engaged in agricultural pursuits. His whole life and attention have been given to that vocation, in which he has been pre-eminently successful. Since 1883 he has been residing on his present farm, on which are in operation eight producing oil wells. Mr. Roller has always been interested in the public life and utilities of the township and has been honored a number of times by election as township trustee, an office which he has filled with great satisfaction to his constituency. February 17, 1881, Mr. Roller married Miss Jennie, the daughter of George and Melissa (Jally) Vickers, and the children by this union are an interesting group, consisting of Harley, born Jan-

uary 15, 1882; Lodema, March 27, 1884; Otas, March 21, 1887; Clark, February 10, 1893, and now deceased; and Willis, July 5, 1896. The mother of this family is also a native of the county, born in Cass township, December 22, 1861. His father, Michael Roller, was a native of the Buckeye state, born in Columbiana county, March 3, 1822. His mother, Elizabeth, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio. Michael Roller was a practical farmer, whose life in the community was above reproach, and whose friends were numerous. He was honored with office many times, filling acceptably various positions in the township. His family numbered eight children: Sara, William, Mary, Filena, George W., Ida, Henry and Lorena. He died August 13, 1886, aged sixty-four years, and his wife departed this life May 8, 1902, at the age of seventy-seven. The paternal grandparents of our subject were William and Charlotte Roller, of Quaker faith, of Democratic affinities and of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. They with their eight children came to this county in 1834 and located in Big Lick township, where William entered a quarter section of land from the government. Their children took up the burden of life as they came of age, and have been useful members of society in Hancock county and have done their share in making it what it is to-day, one of the finest sections of the great state of Ohio. The Vickers family, into which Mr. Roller married, was of English extraction and prominent people in this county from a very early day. They were Methodists in faith and the history of Methodism in Hancock county cannot be written without mention of their services. A more extended history of this family will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. George W. Roller is a worthy and honored resident of this county, where he is held in high esteem for his many good qualities and excellencies of heart and mind.

BENJAMIN KISTLER, Sr.

This well known and most industrious citizen is a resident of Marion township, where he conducts most successfully one of the best farms in Hancock county. He is a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, where, on January 30, 1817, he first opened his eyes to the light. His education was of very limited nature because of his environment, and the age in which he was born, things entirely beyond his control, but endowed by nature with a strong constitution and a will which brought things to pass in his favor, he became permanently successful as a farmer. His parents were Benjamin and Elizabeth Kistler, one of the oldest and most respected families in Fairfield county,

MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN KISTLER.

PIONEERS OF HANCOCK COUNTY.

where the former owned and operated a flouring mill and a saw mill. He removed to the Buckeye state seven years previous to the date of our subject's birth, where he died in 1822.

The gentleman whose name heads this paragraph is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. It is well to remark that the history of a state as well as that of a nation is chiefly the chronicle of the life and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity on society. The world judges the character and deeds of a community by its representative citizens, and yields its tributes of admiration and respect for the genius, learning and virtues of those whose works and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride; and it is by their character as exemplified in benevolence and kindly virtues in the affairs of life, that we are afforded worthy examples for emulation and valuable lessons of incentive. To a student of biography, there is nothing more interesting than to examine the life history of a self-made man, and to detect the elements of character which have enabled him to pass on the highway of life many of the companions of his youth, who at the outset of their career were more advantageously equipped or endowed. The subject of this review has through his own exertions attained an honorable position among the citizens of Hancock county, and it may be said truthfully that he is the architect of his own fortunes, and one whose success amply justifies the application of the somewhat hackeyed, but most expressive title, a self-made man.

Returning from this digression to the consideration of the biography of Mr. Kistler, he removed from Pickaway county in February of 1841, and succeeded in accumulating two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, on some of which he now resides in his old age. His farming has been of a general character, and owing to the scientific manner in which he has conducted it, has been profitable in the extreme. Mr. Kistler is now living a retired life, having done what many thoughtful man may well ponder upon, by dividing his land among his sons before his death in order to save lawyers' fees. December 3, 1840, he was married to Sarah Searfuss, by whom he had seven children: David, Henry, Benjamin, Jr., Clarinda J., John and William, besides a deceased child. The mother of this family was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1819, and is still a woman of robust health and excellent spirits. During his lifetime, Mr. Kistler has performed his full share of the duties devolving on township officers, but he is by no means a politician. They are both members and active workers in the Lutheran church, and have the respect and friendship in their old age of a large circle of acquaintances in Hancock and adjoining counties. Our subject's grand-

father, Henry, with two brothers, emigrated from Germany in the seventeenth century and settled in a valley in Pennsylvania, which was called Kistler valley, and is known as such to this day. Henry's wife also came to this country at the age of sixteen, was married in Kistler valley to Henry, and their descendants have all been honest and prosperous and mostly members of the Lutheran church.

DAVID W. SAUSSER.

The families of Sausser and Hemry, which subsequently intermarried, were among the earliest of the Hancock county pioneers. The first arrivals came when most of the land was wild, but little progress made toward improvement of any kind and government itself in a chaotic state. The story of how all this was changed in a few decades to the present garden spot need not be repeated here, but it is proper to say that the descendants of the families mentioned above bore their full share of the work in bringing the county to the front. Isaac Sausser, who may properly be called the immigrant founder came from Pennsylvania during the first quarter of the nineteenth century and entered eighty acres of land in Jackson township. Shortly after his arrival he was married to Elizabeth Hemry, whose parents had moved in some years before from Harrison county, Ohio, where she was born. On the homestead thus established this couple went to housekeeping and there shared together the joys and sorrows of more than half a century. They were members of the Church of Christ and of quiet, unassuming lives, devoted to their children and thoughtful in the discharge of all social duties. Isaac was a hatter by trade and did considerable work in this line in connection with his regular business of farming. Altogether he prospered fairly well, and at the end had something to show as the result of his long and industrious life. He closed his earthly career in 1892, and his faithful companion, after surviving him seven years, passed away in 1899. Of their six children four are still living and named as follows: John D., Jesse, Sarah and David W.

David W. Sausser, youngest of the surviving children, was born on the old homestead in Jackson township, Hancock county, June 25, 1838. As he grew up he was trained to farm work, and this was in line with the business he has always followed since reaching maturity. His first venture as a land owner was made when he bought a tract of forty acres in his native township, but after working this three years he disposed of it in 1874 and purchased his present holding of seventy-three acres. At the time he took pos-

session this was virgin soil, wholly unimproved, but Mr. Sausser has brought it out greatly. By the necessary fencing and outbuilding, clearing, grubbing and road making, but above all by scientific cultivation, such as soil renovation and crop rotation, he has made his farm one of the finest of its size in the county.

In 1865 Mr. Sausser was married to Sarah, daughter of John and Eliza Snider, well known citizens of Amanda township, and of their ten children the following named nine are living: Zella, Etta, Viola, Abbie, Louie, J. F., W. E., B. L. and Dail. The family are members of the United Brethren church, and Mr. Sausser's connection with public affairs has been confined to holding the office of constable for three years, justice of the peace the same length of time and assessor one term. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, which honor he earned by service in Company A, Forty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war. He went through the great Georgia campaign in 1864, assisted in the capture of Fort McAlister and received an honorable discharge at the close of hostilities.

HERMON T. SHULL.

The Shull family have been connected with Hancock county affairs since 1846, and have done their full share toward helping along the general development. Almost without exception the men have been farmers for generations back and they have ranked with the industrious and progressive element of the agricultural class. They have figured also in the educational and other public interests of their township and in these as well as other matters have always been regarded as substantial and reliable citizens. Benjamin Shull, a native of Fairfield county, was the founder of the Hancock county branch of his family name. He married Christena Kitsmiller, of Franklin county, and removed in 1846 to Hancock county, where they established a homestead in what is now Amanda township. Eighty acres of virgin soil were purchased, the usual log cabin erected and the hard work of clearing begun without further delay. In due time this became a fertile farm and the hospitable home where all the rising generation of Shulls were reared and eventually sent out into the world to make their own living. They had the advantage of excellent parents, their father being an estimable man, who took much interest in educational matters and rose to a position of influence in his township. He retired from active business in 1887, lost his wife by death in 1892 and ended his own earthly career September 15, 1902, on his eighty-seventh birthday. This excellent couple were of religious inclinations and for many years zealous members of the United Brethren church, in which

the father served as class leader and trustee. They reared a family of six children, whose names are thus recorded in the family register: John H., Mary A., William C., Harmon T., Sylvanus and Isaac L.

Harmon T. Shull, who comes third in this list, was born on his father's farm, in Amanda township, Hancock county, Ohio, August 6, 1849, and grew to maturity on the family homestead. He had the benefit of a good education, received in the schools of the district and those of Mount Blanchard and Findlay. His first business venture was in the school room, and he taught for several years both before and after his marriage. This, however, was only intended as a kind of preparatory discipline, as it was always his intention to follow the hereditary vocation of farming, and this he entered upon in earnest when about twenty-five years old. His first purchase of real estate was made in 1874, and consisted of fifty-five acres, which he cultivated six years and then purchased another tract of seventy-eight acres. This also was disposed of, in 1882, when Mr. Shull bought his present homestead in Amanda township, consisting of one hundred and seventy-two acres. Since settling here he has greatly improved the place by building, repairing and scientific methods of cultivation. He does not attempt anything "fancy," but contents himself with general farming and the breeding of standard stock for the market, by which plan he has steadily forged ahead and become both a progressive and prosperous farmer.

In 1870 Mr. Shull was united in marriage with Miss Mary E., daughter of John and Eliza Snider, of Amanda township, and of their four children the only ones living are: Lorin V. and Ray G. The family are members of the United Brethren church and the political predilections of Mr. Shull are with the Republican party. He has held the office of school director, and is at present serving as trustee of the township.

JOHN W. SWAB.

John W. Swab, of Marion township, is a gentleman worthy of mention in a work which purports, as does this one, to record the principal points in the biographical records of the prominent citizens of Hancock county. He is the proprietor of what is known as the East Findlay Dairy Farm, which is situated on Blanchard's river, three miles east of Findlay as the crow flies. This farm contains one hundred and forty-three acres of possibly the most productive land in Hancock county, being excellently watered by the Blanchard river, and having been personally conducted by a gentleman of the agricultural taste and ability of Mr. Swab, its value has been greatly increased.

Emma E Swab

J. W. Swab.

Mr. Swab is an extensive dairyman and a breeder of fancy stock, his herd at the present time consisting of sixty-eight head. About half of these are the Dutch Belted breed, which is prolific as well as rich in quality. His barns are commodious and of the most modern construction, and he has in his buildings every machine and device of modern construction that is known to the dairy business. The breed of cattle known as the Belted Breed are superior animals and always brings top market prices. They combine beauty of form and utility of product in the highest degree. In constitution they are exceedingly strong and hearty, their beef is tender and easy to accumulate, and their disposition mild. Their milk is superior in flow and quality, all things considered, to any other breed of cattle. These superior qualities awarded them the highest prize at the Columbian Exposition in 1893. Mr. Swab handles daily on an average from thirty-nine cows about six hundred pounds of milk. He is not only a practical dairyman, but a most scientific farmer. Everything about his premises evidences the touch of this master hand. His home is heated and lighted free from the natural gas flowing from his own farm, on which there are three gas wells.

Mr. Swab was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1853, and when a lad of but ten years removed with his parents to Ohio, where he has spent the subsequent part of his life. His education was of the variety and extent that could be secured in the country school, but being of an inquiring and docile disposition he has all along during life supplemented this by a practical education, without which the best school education is at fault. He began his married life in 1879, when he chose Emma E. Walter to preside over his home. To this happy union there have been three children born: Nettie, Frank and Julia. The parents of Mr. Swab were Solomon and Catherine (Galloway) Swab, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state, and who removed from Washington county in that state to Ohio in 1863. Solomon Swab has been a man of very great activity and is still well preserved at the age of eighty-seven years. In religious faith, Mr. Swab is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and enters into all the public life of his immediate part of the county with willingness and zest. Our subject's grandfather crossed the Rhine in the eighteenth century from Holland and located in Pennsylvania.

Emma E. Walter was the daughter of David and Amanda Walter, both born in Pennsylvania. The former, who has been a successful farmer, now resides with his children at the age of eighty-one. The mother, Amanda, died in 1900 at the age of sixty-eight. Her parents, Henry and Mary Bear, were of old Virginia stock.

SOLOMON N. ROBERTS.

This name has long been a familiar one in Hancock county, and its representatives, commencing in pioneer days, have at every period since their settlement been influential in connection with the general development. David and Fannie Roberts, whose births occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, about the closing of the first decade of the nineteenth century, came shortly after their marriage to Hancock county, where they located on forty acres of land in Big Lick township. The warrant for this land was signed by no less a person than General Andrew Jackson, better known as "Old Hickory," who was then serving his second term as President. As times prospered with the newcomers they saved money and eventually added to their original little farm one hundred and twenty acres more. David Roberts, besides being a good farmer, was a pious Christian and a man of most exemplary life. He was a leading elder and trustee of the Christian Union church and donated the land on which the local building of that denomination was constructed. His influence for good in his community was great and his active benevolence, constantly exerted where it would do the most good, made David Roberts a useful and indeed a model citizen. A good neighbor, a progressive farmer and a friend of every worthy cause, he enjoyed and well deserved an esteem and consideration which is seldom bestowed upon a private citizen. The long and blameless life of this worthy man terminated in 1887, when he was seventy-seven years old, he being born in 1810. By two marriages Mr. Roberts had twelve children, nine by the first and three by the second, of whom eleven grew to maturity, seven are still living, and four of these are residents of Hancock county. David Roberts's second wife was Mary (Plummer) Rickets, a widow, and only one of her children survives. David J. died in February, 1890. Our subject's mother died when he was four years old, and six of her children survive her.

Solomon N. Roberts, the subject of this sketch, was the son of David and Fannie Roberts, and his birth occurred in Hancock county, Ohio, April 14, 1852. He was brought up on the paternal homestead in Big Lick township and went through the usual experiences of farmers' boys, attending school in winter and working on the farm in summer. He inherited some land from the estate of his father after the latter's death and to this he added one hundred acres, which constitute his present holdings in Big Lick township. His whole life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and his farm, consisting now of one hundred and thirty acres, has been well cultivated. As a general all-around farmer he ranks among the first in his community, his ideas being

progressive and his methods up-to-date. Personally he is quite popular with his fellow citizens, who elected him township assessor, and like his father his life has been moral and upright. April 10, 1873, Mr. Robert was united in marriage with Miss Susan D. Swihart, member of one of the old and strongly established families of the county. Her parents, Aaron and Christina D. Swihart, came to Hancock when it was still little more than a primitive wilderness, and they bore their full share of the burdens incident to pioneer life. Aaron Swihart, who died in August, 1893, aged seventy-seven years, was a man of greath worth and most excellent character, whose vigorous mind and enterprising disposition overcame all difficulties and enabled him to accumulate a fine body of land, ornamented with a handsome brick residence, in which his widow still resides. The latter was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and was one year old when brought to this country. The union of Solomon N. and Susan (Swihart) Roberts proved congenial and fruitful, and eleven of their thirteen children are still living, named as follows in order of birth: Rosetta M., born September 22, 1876; Elma L., born August 26, 1878; Lucy A., born January 19, 1880; David J., born May 2, 1882; Alton D., born April 1, 1884; Bertha L., born March 13, 1886; Cora D., born June 28, 1887; Edna L., born January 12, 1890; Aaron J., born May 10, 1892; Nellie S., born May 13, 1896; and Lola D., born September 16, 1898. The oldest child, Christina L., was born May 21, 1875, and died September 19, 1875. Charles C., the eleventh child, was born June 25, 1894, and died April 22, 1897. Mrs. Roberts, who was born on her father's farm in Big Lick township, March 20, 1856, has proved a most affectionate companion as well as wise adviser of her husband and is fairly idolized by her children. They are strict members of the Christian Union church, in which Mr. Roberts has held the position of first elder and is trustee at the present time. George Swihart, the grandfather of Mrs. Roberts, who was a farmer and blacksmith, died at an advanced age.

ANDREW HARTMAN.

Among the contributions from Pennsylvania to the citizenship of eastern Ohio was the family of Hartmans, who have done their full share since arriving in Hancock county as members of the business community. Philip Hartman was born in Pennsylvania in the first half of the nineteenth century and came to Hancock county, Ohio, about the year 1842. He located on a farm in Jackson township and spent the remainder of his life in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture and gaining the esteem of all his neighbors

by the probity of his character and honesty of his dealings. At the time of his death, which occurred July 27, 1883, he was recognized as one of the successful farmers and most blameless citizens of his community. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Moses and Merry A. Elsea, the former of whom was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, and moved to Eagle township in 1835, where he spent his life as a farmer.

Andrew Hartman, son of Philip, was born on his father's farm in Jackson township, Hancock county, Ohio, April 19, 1869, and grew to maturity in the locality of his nativity. He worked in the country for some years after becoming of age, removed to Findlay, October 11, 1898, clerked in a grocery store for six months, and then bought a grocery of his own, with which business he has made a good success. Mr. Hartman is one of the youngest business men of the city, and though only there a short time has already shown an aptitude that bids fair to place him among the leading merchants.

January 26, 1893, Mr. Hartman was married in Hancock county to Miss Mary McClellan, by whom he has three children: Cleo May, born May 1, 1895; Hazel Lavern, born January 29, 1897; and Everett McClellan, born September 19, 1898. Mrs. Mary A. Hartman was born November 6, 1873, and is a daughter of Thomas and Sophia McClellan, of Eagle township, Hancock county. Mr. Hartman is a member of the Lutheran church and is a welcome guest in the best social circles of Findlay.

WILLIAM P. WISELY.

The above mentioned, who is one of Findlay's most popular young men, belongs to a family which has been identified with Hancock county from its earliest history. In fact his grandfather was at the very beginning of things in the county, being one of the first five men who made their appearance in its limits. This was as far back as 1831, and Allen Wisely helped survey the county when it was still in its state of primeval wilderness. With wise forethought, however, he foresaw that there was a future for Hancock county and invested in a tract of land of considerable extent, which he spent his subsequent life in cultivating. He achieved remarkable success in his calling, and at the time of his death in 1888, at the age of eighty years, was possessed of a fine estate of three thousand acres of land. Allen Wisely married Amelia Bright, and of his eight children those now living are Mrs. Sarah Davis, Mrs. America Glick, Loraine and Daniel S. Wisely, all of whom have been successful in life and are now in comfortable circumstances. The eldest of the eight children was William P. Wisely, who followed in his father's

W. P. Wiseley.

footsteps as a successful farmer, and when he died, twenty-five years ago, at the comparatively early age of fifty-one years, owned one of the handsomest landed estates in the county. He was a member of the United Brethren church, a man of upright life and strict integrity in business dealings and in a quiet way exercised considerable influence in his community. He married Elizabeth Balton, and to this union we are indebted for the bright young man whose career and present status constitute the basis of this brief biography.

William P. Wisely, namesake, as well as worthy successor of his honored father, was born at Findlay, Ohio, September 5, 1873. He had the benefit of a good education at the college in his native city, from which he was sent forth with a diploma in the class of 1891. Though still under legal age he lost no time in entering business, and in connection with his brother, opened the ice and coal enterprise which still occupies his attention, and in the prosecution of which he has been quite successful. But it is not simply by his energetic management of the People's Ice & Coal Company that Mr. Wisely is known to the public of Findlay and the county of which it is the capital. He has figured actively in various capacities calculated to attract attention, and though still less than thirty years old is quite prominent in politics and recognized as one of the leaders of his party. Already he has served two years in the city council from the first ward of Findlay, and in 1900 was honored by the Democratic party as its candidate for the state legislature from Hancock county. Though the district is Republican and it was an "off year" for the Democrats, Mr. Wisely polled the full vote of his organization and came out of the contest with credit. On the social side of life and in connection with the prominent fraternities, Mr. Wisely displays the same suavity and geniality of address that have given him popularity in politics and business. For one of his age he has achieved unusual prominence in Masonry, having reached the thirty-second degree in that ancient order, being a member of Findlay Commandery, No. 49, the Lake Erie Consistory in Cleveland, and the blue lodge at Findlay. In addition to this he is conspicuous in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and altogether no young man in Findlay does his part more fully than Mr. Wisely in connection with the city's social activities.

On the 4th of June, 1895, Mr. Wisely led to the matrimonial altar Miss Bessie B. McLeod, and received the congratulations of many friends on his wise selection, as this young lady was not only of attractive personality, but a member of one of the standard families of the community. Her father, Dr. Joseph R. McLeod, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume, is one

of the oldest and best known physicians in the county, as well as a man of influence in other departments of life aside from the professional. By his union with Miss McLeod, Mr. Wisely has three bright children: Frank, the eldest, was born May 21, 1897; Helen E., September 19, 1900; and Joseph R., the baby of the family, commenced life's journey November 16, 1901.

ISAAC HERSHEY.

A stormy, hard-working and adventurous life has been that of the subject of this sketch, whose name is given above. The first part of it was that of an orphan boy, compelled at a tender age to delve and dig for the bare means of subsistence. Later it was a war career, not only involving the usual dangers of fighting, but attended by a wound so deadly and desperate that none thought survival possible. But our subject fought bravely through it all and is not only here to tell the tale, but has been able to do much hard work at various callings and has something to show for his industry.

The Hersheys were Pennsylvanians, the grandfather of our subject being Christian Hershey, who lived and died in the Keystone state. His son, Benjamin Hershey, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1810, and removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where he died December 28, 1857. He married Sarah Tritch, by whom he had seven children, the surviving four being: Isaac; Henry; Harriet, wife of Benjamin Runyon, and William. Isaac Hershey, the eldest of these children, was born October 10, 1845, in what is now a part of Findlay, Ohio, and there received a little education in his early childhood. His father died when he was twelve years old, and after that, for some years, it was a hard struggle for the boy. He was compelled to work at anything he could get to do, his jobs being on farms, in limekilns, doing chores and other juvenile employments as exacting as they were ill paid. So matters went along until the fall of 1863, when, in his eighteenth year, young Hershey determined to enter the army. He enlisted as a private in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until disabled in the following year. His regiment was with Sherman during the spring and summer of 1864 in his onward march to Atlanta. Young Hershey had fighting enough to do to satisfy the military ambition of any boy, but he proved equal to the emergency and bore himself well at every critical moment. The principal battles in which he was engaged were those at Ringgold, Buzzard's Roost, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, and Vining Station, all in Georgia. He was shot in the left wrist at Kennesaw Mountain, but did not leave the field in consequence of

this injury. At Vining Station, however, he was so dangerously wounded that for a long time afterward no hopes were entertained of his recovery. The ball entered the right arm just below the shoulder and passed entirely through his body, coming out on the left side. He was struck down July 9, 1864, and all during the rest of that day and night and until the following afternoon he lay on the field of battle, weltering in his blood, unsought and uncared for. When finally found, it was discovered that under the effects of the hot weather and scorching July sun, the wound had generated maggots. Though the physicians despaired of saving him, he was sent to the hospital at Marietta, Georgia, later to Nashville, and from there to Louisville, Kentucky. Though by one of those unaccountable causes, which occasionally save desperately stricken soldiers, Mr. Hershey had escaped one great danger, his troubles were by no means ended. At Louisville he was transferred to the Reserve Corps and sent to Jackson, Michigan, where the alarming discovery was made that he had the smallpox, and this necessitated his confinement at the pest-house. He recovered from this dangerous disease also and later served on garrison duty at various places until his discharge, which occurred August 27, 1866, at Fort Mackinac, Michigan.

After receiving his discharge Mr. Hershey returned to Findlay, Ohio, and shortly afterward engaged in the business of farming, lime-burning and stone-quarrying. In 1882 he abandoned the two lines first mentioned, and confined his work entirely to stone-quarrying, and this has constituted his employment up to the present time. Mr. Hershey has never married, but pleads guilty to the charge of being an "old bachelor," though like most of that class, he is of jovial disposition, fond of company, and by no means averse to the society of ladies. He is a member of the United Brethren church, and Republican in politics, but has never belonged to any secret society.

JOSEPH CRAMER.

Joseph Cramer is a farmer located in Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, and devotes his valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres to general farming. His excellent methods, combined with his practical knowledge, have resulted in a farm which is generally regarded as one of the best in the township.

The birth of Mr. Cramer occurred in Liberty township, on April 16, 1855, and there he was reared and educated. His parents were Andrew and Christina (Allen) Cramer, pioneers in Hancock county, the former of whom is deceased, and the latter a resident of Liberty township.

With the exception of twelve years spent in Wood county, Ohio, our subject has been identified all his life with the interests of Hancock county. From his earliest business life he has been connected with agricultural pursuits, and he has followed methods which have resulted in excellent returns.

On March 16, 1876, Mr. Cramer was married to Miss Elizabeth S., a daughter of William and Sarah Crossley, the former of whom was born in 1820 and the latter in 1825. They were married in 1842 and their children were: Catherine, Polly, Lydia, Jacob, Elizabeth S. and Joshua. The birth of Mrs. Cramer occurred January 22, 1859, and she died December 16, 1895. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Cramer were: Metta, who was born in 1876 and married A. Johnson; Sarah, who was born in 1877 and married J. Beckman; Fannie, who was born in 1879 and married F. St. Clair; Pearl, who was born in 1882 and married Ora Laudenback August 15, 1902; Eva, born in 1887; Hermon, born in 1889; Franklin, born in 1892; and William Ray, born in 1894. In politics Mr. Cramer is a Democrat.

JOHN PETERMAN.

Among the brave men who devoted the opening years of their manhood to the defense of our country during the dark days of the Civil war was John Peterman, now a prominent farmer of Jackson township, Hancock county, Ohio. There he was born on the 16th of May, 1840, a son of John and Mary Ann (Jones) Peterman, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. During the childhood of Mrs. Peterman her father left home never to be heard of again and as a young girl she came to Ohio, where she was first married at the age of sixteen years. Later she became the wife of John Peterman, Sr., their marriage being celebrated in Holmes county, Ohio. He had come from Pennsylvania when a young man and entered the employ of his brother, James Peterman, a contractor in building canal locks, and for him he worked as a stone mason. About 1834 he took up his residence in Hancock county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which a small clearing had been made and a cabin erected thereon, paying for the same five hundred dollars, though government land could have been entered all around him. That farm is now the property of William Oman and adjoins the property of Asa Ellis. There the father of our subject continued to make his home until his death, which occurred in August, 1863, when he was fifty-six years of age. He had cleared one hundred acres of his land and placed it under cultivation and erected thereon the commodious residence which is still standing, it being built when

Mrs. Mary a Peterman

Mr. John Peterman

our subject was a lad of thirteen years. On coming to the county the father found the woods full of wild game and he killed a large number of deer, many of which were shot from his own doorway. The largest ever killed in that locality was shot in that way. During the first year of his residence here Mr. Peterman killed twenty-three and that without any effort at hunting. Although he took an active part in politics as a supporter of the Democratic party, he would never accept office. His wife survived him for thirty-one years, dying in November, 1894, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years.

In the family of this worthy couple were ten children who reached years years of maturity, namely: James, a resident of Jackson township; Sarah, who married Fred Marquet and died at the age of sixty-five years; William, who died at the age of forty-four; John, Jr., of this review; Mary Jane, wife of Jacob Bishop; Joseph, who became a soldier of the Civil war and was killed by guerrillas near Peach Tree Creek while on a foraging expedition; Harriet, who married Jacob Greno and died twenty-four years ago; Nopoleon Bonaparte, who served in the heavy artillery during the war and is now living in this state; Nancy, who married Bolser Hammond and died young; and Martha, who wedded Eli McClelland and died young.

During his minority the subject of this sketch remained under the parental roof but when the country became involved in Civil war he could no longer be content to remain at home and at the first call for seventy-five thousand men to aid in suppressing the rebellion, he enlisted in April, 1861, for three months, as a member of Company F, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With his command he was first sent to Gallipolis, later did guard duty on the Ohio river, and subsequently went to Charleston, West Virginia, to drive General Wise out. After four months and two weeks in the service, Mr. Peterman was mustered out, but a week later he re-enlisted for three years in Company C, First Ohio Cavalry, under command of Captain N. D. Menken, being one of the first to join the regiment, which was assigned to the army of the Potomac. As orderly he was placed on the staff of General Shields and served as orderly guard when that general was in command of the army in the valley of Virginia. He aided in the defense of the city of Washington until General Pope took command, and later was special orderly for General Roberts, who was chief of Pope's staff.

He took part in the battle of Cedar Mountain and in all of the engagements until the second battle of Bull Run. At Catlett Station Pope's headquarters' train was captured, and at the same time Mr. Peterman was taken prisoner while carrying an order for General Roberts, but a few minutes later saw a chance to escape, though he had to leave behind him his horse and

revolver. He remained with the headquarters' train until the second battle of Bull Run and during that fight carried orders for General Pope, having volunteered in place of another orderly. After the engagement he went to Washington, D. C., and in the defense of the city he remained there as orderly under General Hayes. He was also with that commander during the Gettysburg campaign and was in the thickest of the fight near the cemetery. Soon afterward he had his leg broken and when able to travel was sent to rejoin his regiment, which had been in Tennessee and Kentucky all this time, only Companies A and C being in Virginia. Up to this time Mr. Peterman had never been with his regiment at all, as these two companies had been sent to the front before his regiment was organized. He joined his command at Nashville, Tennessee, and was there discharged on the expiration of his term of enlistment. Although he was in twenty-three battles, besides numerous skirmishes, and had his clothes pierced by bullets many times, he was fortunately never wounded, though he got a sliver in his cheek from a cannon ball striking the timbers of a bridge over which he was stationed. Having a desire to be in action all of the time he served mainly on special orderly duty and was armed with sabre and revolver. He captured several prisoners himself, was a brave and fearless soldier, and was faithful in the discharge of any trust committed to his care. He is now an honored member of Stoker Post, G. A. R., of Findlay.

On leaving the army Mr. Peterman resumed the more quiet duties of farm life, taking charge of the old homestead, as his father had died while he was at the front. When the place was sold he bought eighty acres, which he traded in 1873 for his present farm in Jackson township, which had been entered by Dr. Barrett Needles and which cost our subject eleven thousand five hundred and fifty dollars, going twenty-five hundred dollars in debt for the same. It comprises two hundred and twenty acres, about forty-five acres of which Mr. Peterman himself has cleared, and one hundred and ninety acres of the tract is now under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He has paid out about three thousand dollars for tiling and draining and the land is now in first-class condition, being very rich and productive. In connection with general farming he has engaged in the feeding of stock for some years but is not a shipper, selling what he fattens for market to the butchers of Findlay. Upon his home place he has erected a good barn and remodeled the residence so that he now has one of the best improved farms in the township, and it is pleasantly located seven and a half miles southeast of Findlay. He also owns a small farm nearer the city which is devoted to gardening, and upon which he has erected a couple of residences. Besides

this property he has an eighty acre tract of gas and oil land which is now being developed, and he is numbered among the prosperous and substantial citizens of his community.

On the 11th of June, 1868, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Peterman and Miss Mary A. Mains, a daughter of Joel and Elizabeth (Groves) Mains, of Jackson township. She was born in Huntington, Indiana, and was a young lady on coming to Hancock county about four or five years prior to her marriage. Her father, who was a chairmaker by trade, was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and a son of Jacob Mains, who came to Findlay about forty-five years ago and here operated a woolen mill and carding machine. After their marriage in Fairfield county Mrs. Peterman's parents removed to Huntington, Indiana, and from there came to Hancock county, Ohio, locating on a farm in Jackson township. Mr. Mains did not, however, engage in agricultural pursuits, but worked at his trade in Findlay. He died in November, 1867. His widow subsequently made her home with Mrs. Peterman for five years. The children born to our subject and his wife are George Anson, Mary E., Nancy J., Thomas L., Oscar E., Blaine, Gertrude, Bertie L., John Sherman and Maudie May.

Mr. Peterman cast his first presidental ballot for Stephen A. Douglas, the Democratic candidate, but since that time has always supported the Republican party and has attended many of its conventions, taking an active interest in political affairs. Although his township is Democratic he has been elected to the offices of supervisor and trustee, which fact plainly indicates the confidence reposed in him as well as his personal popularity. Socially he is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Mount Blanchard, and both he and his wife are members of the Rebecca branch of that order. They are well and favorably known, and are held in the highest esteem in the community where they reside.

ISAAC C. SNIDER.

Elsewhere in a sketch devoted to William F. Snider considerable space was devoted to the family generally, but especially to the pioneer parents of the subject. We are now to deal with a younger brother of William F., and it will hardly be necessary to repeat the particulars previously given concerning the founders of his family in Hancock county. John and Elizabeth (Treece) Snider, who were married in Hancock county about 1836, went to farming on a small place bought by the husband about that time, but later considerably increased. Among their children was Isaac C. Snider, whose birth

occurred on this farm in Amanda township, Hancock county, September 29, 1856. His education was obtained in his native township and included two terms at the Mount Blanchard high school. Like his ancestry for generations he chose farming for his life work and evidently selected well, as he has not only exhibited a remarkable aptitude for this noble calling, but has achieved in its pursuit a distinct and unusual success. In 1878 he made his first investment in real estate, consisting of a tract of sixty acres of farm land, and this was increased ten years later by an additional purchase of forty-six acres. These constitute the home farm where he now resides, and it is on these one hundred and six acres of land that he has achieved such notable results as a stock-raiser. He keeps the best grades in all lines, but makes a specialty of Delaine sheep, of which he has one hundred and twenty head, and twenty head of standard register. This breed of sheep furnish an unusually valuable fleece, used principally in the manufacture of the finest grades of tweed cloth. It is a pleasure to look over Mr. Snider's place, neatly improved as it is with convenient buildings and animated by herds of fat swine and sleek cattle, ready for the market. Besides stock Mr. Snider's farm is famous for fruit of all kinds suitable to that latitude and its prolific crops of fine apples, peaches and smaller varieties have made it known far and wide. In fact his enterprise, "go-aheadativeness" and progressive methods have given Mr. Snider high standing among Hancock county's agriculturists, and he receives as well as deserves the name of a model farmer.

In 1878 Mr. Snider was united in marriage with Miss Laura, daughter of David and Rosilla Alspacgh, and a native of Wyandot county, by whom he has four children: Ulta, wife of Frank Sampson, of Delaware township; Edgar F.; Lulu; and Metta. The family are members of the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Snider is district steward. He cares nothing for office, but was once elected justice of the peace. His mind is centered entirely on farming affairs, in which he has achieved such creditable results, and as an aid to his noble calling he organized the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which though only got under way in 1898 is already in a flourishing condition.

NOAH LEE.

Noah Lee, who owns a fine farm in Jackson township, was born in Amanda township, Hancock county, August 15, 1845, and is a son of Richard and Lydia (Wyant) Lee, both of whom were born and reared in Fairfield county, this state. The paternal grandparents were Zebulon and Margaret

Noah Lee & Wife

Lee, whose birth occurred on the banks of the Susquehanna river, the former born May 16, 1758, the latter September 9, 1770. The Lee family is of English lineage and was established in America in colonial days. When the colonies attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression the grandfather joined the army which achieved the independence of the nation. He served as a mail carrier and as a spy and experienced the hardships of the memorable winter at Valley Forge. After peace had been declared and the republic established he brought his family to Ohio, settling in Fairfield county at an early day. When his son Richard came to Hancock county he came with him and spent his last years in Amanda township, passing away when our subject was about seven or eight years of age. He had been crippled while in the Revolutionary service, but he survived until ninety-four years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Courtright, survived him for more than thirty years, and was ninety-three years of age when called to her final rest. Their children were Rachel, Noah, Daniel, John, Richard and Stephen. Stephen Lee, born February 15, 1813, also resided in Amanda township.

Richard Lee, the father of our subject, was reared in Fairfield county, and in 1830 came to Hancock county and entered a tract of land, upon which he located in the spring of the following year. He took up his abode in the midst of the wilderness, for there were no roads leading into the depths of the forest, and he devoted his energies to opening up a farm. He became the owner of several hundred acres of land, including two hundred and forty acres in the home place, and he gave to each of his children a farm. He died of lung fever, in 1856, at the age of forty-eight years, and was buried in the Lee church cemetery. His wife survived him a quarter of a century, passing away in 1881, at the age of seventy-two years. In their family were the following: Zebulon P., who is living in Weston, Ohio; John W., who died at the age of thirty-three years; Caroline, the wife of Daniel Gilbert, of Van Lue, Ohio; Francis Marion, who is living retired in Findlay; David, who died when past the age of sixty years; Stephen, a resident of Amanda township; Jason, who is probably in Oklahoma; and Noah. The death of David, the fourth son, occurred in a rather tragic manner. He was tolling the bell for a funeral, when the rope broke and he went to the top of the belfry. The board on which he was standing slipped, he fell eight feet, and several hours later was found dead. This took place in the Lee church in Amanda township, where he had tolled the bell for twenty-five years.

Upon the old home farm the boyhood days of our subject were passed. His father died when he was nine years of age and his mother afterward

married Jacob F. Houck, of Houcktown. They removed to the farm upon which our subject now resides. Mr. Houck had also been married previously. He came from Baltimore county, Maryland, and settled on this farm. He died in March, 1881, from injuries received while in a saw-mill, and the mother of our subject passed away in December of the same year.

Noah Lee was thirteen years of age when he went to the Houck farm. He was the youngest and only child left with his mother at that time and he remained with her until his marriage, in 1866, a month before he attained his majority. He wedded Mary E. Sampson, a daughter of Nicholas and Eliza Sampson. She lived upon an adjoining farm and was twenty years of age at the time of their marriage. Mr. Lee rented the Houck farm for six or seven years and finally purchased the property, becoming owner of one hundred and forty-six acres. A corner, covering fifteen acres had previously been sold and the village of Houcktown established thereon. Mr. Lee added to his place until it now contains two hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, upon which he has erected a set of excellent farm buildings. He has two hundred and twenty acres of the place under a high state of cultivation and the farm is as good as any in the locality, being well tiled and improved with all modern equipments. He has always carried on general farming, generally feeding his own stock, and his attention being closely given to his agricultural pursuits, he has prospered as the years have passed.

In 1881 Mr. Lee was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 20th of August of that year and his mother died in the following December. Seven children were born unto our subject and his wife, five of whom are living. Ora E. is the wife of Mack B. Smith, of Jackson township; C. A., who resides on the farm, married Lura Bell and she died leaving one child, Edith Gertrude, who has since resided with her grandparents; Rozilla is the wife of Harry Croft, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Richard N. is a practicing physician of Mount Blanchard, Ohio; Jesse is still on the home farm; and two of the children died in infancy. On the 15th of April, 1883, Mr. Lee was united in marriage to Mrs. Belle Parker, the widow of W. F. Parker, who was a harnessmaker of Van Lue, Ohio. Her parents were Frederick and Catherine (Funk) Shuler, and she was born in Pennsylvania, coming to Amanda township, Hancock county, when nine years of age, while at the age of twenty she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Parker, by whom she had one child, Harry J. Parker, who now assists in operating the Lee farm, being a partner of Jesse Lee in the enterprise. No children were born of the second marriage, but Edith Gertrude, whose

mother was buried the day she was two weeks old, has since lived with them as their own child.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has served as steward, class leader and as Sunday-school superintendent for a quarter of a century. He is a Democrat in his political affiliations. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Mount Blanchard and both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah degree. Well known in the county, their friends are many and will receive with pleasure this record of their lives.

WILLIAM FOGLER.

This gentleman, who owns a fine farm in Big Lick township, belongs to the younger generation of Hancock county's agriculturists, and is regarded as one of the county's representative citizens. He is a son of Christian and Mary A. (Wagner) Fogler, both of whom were natives of Ohio and spent their whole lives in the borders of this state. In 1863 Christian Fogler removed with his family to Hancock county, where he located on two hundred and forty acres of land, which he had purchased in Liberty township. He lived there, however, but a short time, when he disposed of his estate and purchased a small farm of eighty acres. This, too, he disposed of after three years, and his next purchase was a farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres in Jackson township. On this place he remained eleven years, in the meantime adding one hundred and seventeen acres to his original holding. This estate he eventually sold and made another purchase of land, amounting to about one hundred acres. Three years was spent upon this farm, after which Mr. Fogler disposed of it and moved to Carey, where he bought a grist-mill, conducted it for a while and then established himself upon a farm in Wyandot county. The next move of Mr. Fogler was to Wood county, Ohio, where he lived for a while on a rented farm and later purchased a place of forty acres in the same county. This was also disposed of, after which he bought another farm in Wood county, which proved to be his final purchase, as he died February 29, 1897. The family of Christian and Mary (Wagner) Fogler consisted of ten children, of whom nine are living.

William Fogler, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fairfield county, March 22, 1850, and is the only one of the children who is living in Hancock county. After the usual routine in the district schools he commenced work early on the farm and has always followed agricultural pursuits. His first investment in real estate was the purchase of ninety-two acres of land in

Jackson township, which, however, he soon disposed of, and in 1893 removed to Big Lick township. There he owns and operates a farm consisting of seventy-seven and a half acres, devoted to general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Fogler keeps his place in a high state of cultivation and allows no one to surpass him in keeping up with modern improvements.

In 1874 Mr. Fogler was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Lee, who has borne him three children: Jennie, born in 1877, died May 2, 1878; Anna, born June 6, 1879; and Eva, born January 4, 1881. Margaret Lee was the daughter of Z. P. and Zilla (Gilbert) Lee, the former a farmer, who is still living, while she died in 1896. Richard Lee, the grandfather of Mrs. Fogler, was a farmer and died in the prime of life, while his father, Zebulin, was born in Wales and came to this country as a young man to seek his fortune. He came to Hancock county when it was all a forest. Zilla Gilbert was a daughter of Aquilla Gilbert, who was born in England and came over to this country to better his financial condition. He met with good success and died here at the age of eighty-nine years. John Fogler, grandfather of our subject, was a farmer who lived to advanced years.

JAMES A. ENFIELD.

During his residence of thirty-two years in Hancock county, the gentleman above mentioned, by his exemplary life and industrious habits has proved himself a worthy addition to its citizenship. He comes of excellent old Maryland stock, his ancestry having always enjoyed respectable standing in their community, reared their children in the pathways of truth and honor, and trained them to lives of usefulness. Jacob Enfield, though a native of York county, Pennsylvania, went early to Harford county, Maryland, and there spent forty years of his life. He became acquainted with Miss Nancy Howlett, member of one of the old families of Harford county, and in due time was united in marriage with that lady. During his earlier years Jacob followed the trade of a miller, by which occupation he obtained a good livelihood, but eventually he drifted into agricultural pursuits, to which he exclusively devoted all of his later life. He lost his first wife by death in 1855, subsequently married a Miss Smith, by whom there was no issue, and his own career was closed by the final summons in 1892. By his first wife Jacob Enfield had eight children, seven of whom grew to maturity and three are still living. James A. Enfield, who is one of the latter and the immediate subject of this biography, was born in Harford county, Maryland, March 10, 1846, and was reared and educated in his native place. In 1870 he re-

moved to Hancock county, where he in time became the possessor of a neat little farm of forty acres, where he has since lived and carried on general agriculture. Though his place is small it is well cultivated and well managed, Mr. Enfield making his land so productive as to yield him a comfortable living.

December 27, 1868, a year or two before coming to Ohio, Mr. Enfield was married to Miss Emma, daughter of Benjamin and Emma (Harvey) Weeks, substantial citizens of Harford county, where the former was a successful farmer. Of the six children who came to bless their union, George A. has passed away; Florence M., the eldest daughter, is now the wife of Jason Snyder; three children blessed this union, Everett, Arena and Christa; Aura married LeRoy Garber; two children came to this union, Wilber and Francis; O. D. is attending normal school at Angola, Indiana, where he expects to graduate in 1903; John W. is the husband of Etha, daughter of Levi Bright; and James B. is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Enfield are members of the United Brethren church, in which he has held the position of class leader for twenty years, being also trustee for a number of years and for a term was superintendent of the Sunday-school. He has never been an aspirant for office, preferring business to politics, but his neighbors having elected him constable, he discharged the duties of that place to the best of his ability and was commended as a good official. Both the older and younger members of the Enfield family are highly esteemed in their respective spheres, and contribute their full share to the upbuilding of the communities in which they reside. John S., the oldest brother of our subject, moved to Missouri in 1873. He is a farmer and Christian gentleman of high standing in that state. Samuel P., second oldest son, lives in York county, Pennsylvania, where he has been quite successful in farming.

ANDREW CRAMER.

The late Andrew Cramer, a well known and highly respected resident of Liberty township, Hancock county, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, on July 22, 1827. His parents were Henry and Mary Cramer, who came to Hancock county when Andrew was a lad of fifteen years.

The early life of Andrew Cramer was one of toil. He learned the blacksmith trade and worked at this in connection with farming for a number of years. Although he died possessed of a large farm, he earned his first eighty acres of it by chopping wood from it and selling the same. As soon as he cleared this eighty, he bought forty acres more, located in Wood county, and also bought a small farm in Henry county. He was a hard working man

of upright character and through life enjoyed the respect of his neighbors. In politics he was a life-long Democrat, but during the Civil war, when he became subjected to draft, he immediately secured a substitute. Mr. Cramer was a quiet, home-loving man who attends closely to his business, and providently secured a fine estate for his family. His death occurred in 1895, after a long and useful life.

In 1840 he married Christina Allen, who was born on March 16, 1829, in Pickaway county, Ohio, and they had a family of six children: John, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Julia and Amos. Mrs. Cramer came to Hancock county when she was fourteen years old. She owns two hundred acres of fine land suitable for farming purposes, but her greatest revenues are received from some fourteen oil wells which are in operation on it. She is a much respected resident of Liberty township.

SAMUEL LEMOTT.

In Samuel Lemott Uncle Sam has one of his many public servants who daily conduct the great government enterprise which has added more to the comfort and material, intellectual and moral progress of this country than any institution under the control of the central government, the United States postoffice. And his popular and genial character enables him to fill this position to the eminent satisfaction of the citizens of the thriving little village of Vanlue.

John Lemott, the father of Samuel, is a native of Franklin county, this state, his birth occurring there in 1834, thus being one of Ohio's old settlers. By trade he was a plasterer and bore the reputation of being a first-class mechanic; he was honest and industrious and his long life, though unmarked with stirring events, has been fruitful in the good deeds that are within the power of every man. In 1840 he removed to Hancock county, taking up his residence in Amanda township, and there in connection with his trade he followed farming. He married Miss Jane Starr, and of their nine children four are now living. Mrs. Lemott died in 1875, but Mr. Lemott is still living and, retired from active labor, makes his home in Carey.

Samuel, the son of John and Jane (Starr) Lemott, was born in Amanda township, Hancock county, December 15, 1853; he there grew up to manhood and while gaining his education in the common schools he was accounted one of the brightest and most eager pupils, imbibing many lessons which should be valuable to him when tempered in the schools of after life. His school days over, he himself became a teacher and in this met with success beyond

his most sanguine expectations. But with wise forethought, in order that he might have some manual occupation to which he could turn in case of an emergency, he served time with his father and became skilled in the plasterer's trade, at which he worked for a few years. His next employment was in the mercantile line and for eight years he was clerk for Mr. U. Sillik. Mr. Lemott has been especially prominent in the public affairs of his community. Although he is a stanch adherent of the Republican party, he has by his strict integrity and capable administration of public places of trust met with the approval of men of both parties. He has filled the office of assessor of the township for four years, held the office of justice of the peace for three years, and was a member of the school board for fourteen years, part of which time he was clerk; and, as has been mentioned, he now is in the place of postmaster of the town. In connection with these interests he is agent for the Farmers' Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Company, his territory embracing Jackson, Delaware and Amanda townships.

On February 22, 1877, Mr. Lemott married Miss Martha Snider, who is the daughter of John and Eliza (Treece) Snider, and was born on her father's farm in Amanda township, February 7, 1858. To this marriage have been born eight children: Wellie, who is now deputy postmaster; Inez; Otto; Burnice; Edward; Grace; Dorotha; and Henry. Mr. Lemott owns a pleasant little farm near Vanlue, and there he resides and delights to entertain his many friends, who rejoice in his hospitality and unite in wishing him continued success. Mr. Lemott's father, who was a soldier of the Union during the Civil war, is a well preserved veteran of sixty-eight years. He is still working at his trade and able to hold his own with the best of them.

E. V. VAN LUE.

Perhaps no name has been longer and better known in Hancock county than that of Van Lue. Infallible evidence that some one of the family has impressed his individuality on the community is furnished by the fact that one of the villages of the county is named in his honor. In pioneer periods towns, rivers, creeks and notable natural features usually got their designations from the first discoverers or earliest settlers or as the result of some remarkable happening, like a battle or murder. Thus the nomenclature of a locality often furnishes clues both to its general and personal history, and a name frequently points a moral as well as adorns a tale. In the case under consideration the village in Amanda township recalls William Van Lue, who is shown on inquiry to have been one of the earliest arrivals and a man of sufficient strength

of character to make himself remembered after his day. Other members of the family, however, are worthy of consideration and included among these is Frederick Van Lue, who was the first comer and founder of the family in Hancock county. He married Rebecca Brown in the east and "moved in" at a time when Hancock county gave little evidence that it would eventually become the abode of peace and plenty which it now presents to the beholder. Mrs. Alspach, who resides in Arhanda township and is one of the few interesting relicts surviving the brave days of the long ago, knew the first Van Lue quite well, and her career covers the whole period of the family's growth in the county. Jacob Van Lue, a son of the original emigrant, inherited some of the push and daring which characterized the first founders, and is a man who impresses one favorably on acquaintance. He is a living refutation of the old saying that "a jack of all trades is a master of none," because Jacob has tried many things and has succeeded in them all. He has been a butcher, a a hotel keeper, a farmer and other things, but it was common remark around the neighborhood that whatever Jake Van Lue undertook was sure to succeed. This shows not only that he had business ability but that he was above the average in the art of knowing just what he wanted to do as well as how to do it. He was born in Amanda township, on the farm where his father first located, and there, after reaching maturity, he married one of his neighbor's daughters, named Leah Fenstermacher. This lady died in 1877, when still young, but left her husband as a memorial of their union a son, concerning whom something more will be said later on. Jacob married again, and is now living in Michigan, where his old good fortune seems to have followed him, as the reports coming back all agree in saying that he is doing a prosperous business. His uncle William, the same who gave his name to the village of Van Lue, was more of a public character than any of the family, and was perhaps the most noted of the connection. He was quite popular in politics as well as business, as is evidenced by the fact that the people elected him to the important office of county treasurer, in which he made a highly commendable record, and his neighbors also insisted that he should try their cases and settle their disputes as a justice of the peace.

Having now disposed of the ancestry we come to the gentleman whose life and surroundings furnish the real reasons for the compilation of this biography. E. V. Van Lue, the only son of Jacob and Leah alluded to above, was born at the ancestral home in Hancock county, Ohio, July 20, 1863. He grew up in his native township of Amanda, and his natural inclination was to become a farmer on his own acocunt, which laudable ambition was gratified by the purchase in 1893 of the pleasant and productive place which has since

constituted his homestead. This land was originally entered by a man named Daniel Beck, but has since and quite generally been known in the neighborhood as the "L. C. Clark farm." Like most of the Amanda township acreage, this tract is fertile, and Mr. Van Lue, by his skillful management has made it produce up to the best standard of land in that vicinity. In fact he is a decidedly progressive and up-to-date farmer, carrying things on by modern methods, using the latest improvements and altogether setting an example worthy of twentieth century agriculture. The result is seen not only in the abundant crops and fine fat stock turned off but in the neat appearance of all the surroundings. Personally Mr. Van Lue has the reputation of being an unusually well informed man for his opportunities, and certainly exhibits a keen perception as well as accurate information on subjects relating to his special industry. Aside from his private business affairs he has given up some time to service of the public as township trustee, an office which he held six years, and to transacting the business of clerk for a somewhat shorter period. On the social side Mr. Van Lue has been as fortunate as in his business relations, having chosen his wife wisely and lived with her happily. His choice of a bride fell upon Miss Ida Clark, one of the popular farmer's daughters of Richland township, Wyandot county, Ohio, and to her he was wedded in 1892, at her home in Amanda township. An examination indicates that the four children springing from this union are thus recorded in the family register: Frances was born April 8, 1893; Ethel, November 9, 1894; Mary, on January 13, 1900, and Gouldier, October 30, 1902.

EPHRAIM I. OMAN.

Though not among the first the Omans were very early settlers of Hancock county, as the family was established here as far back as 1840. In that year John Oman, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1804, made his appearance in Hancock county and identified himself with its interests by purchasing eighty acres of land in Eagle township. Previously he had met and married Faithful Ellet, who was born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1809, and after locating on his new purchase he built a log cabin for the accommodation of his wife and children. In this rude and temporary shelter they resided until John's circumstances enabled him to provide a more commodious dwelling house. Being a good farmer, of industrious habits and strictly attentive to his own business, he prospered from the start and was soon comfortably fixed for those early days in Ohio. In due time he had added eighty acres of land to his original purchase, and all of it was greatly improved by skillful cultivation

and the other adjuncts of wise husbandry. He and his wife, who died May 28, 1876, were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and regarded as model Christians by their friends and neighbors. In 1890 Mr. Oman sold his farm property to the Standard Oil Company and purchased a place in Amanda township, on which he lived until his death, June 17, 1893. He had five children, but of these Ephraim I. Oman, the subject of this sketch, is the only survivor.

He was born on his father's farm in Eagle township, Hancock county, Ohio, October 11, 1843, and grew up to a familiarity with agricultural pursuits, which he has followed throughout the course of his life. He remained on the farms in both Eagle and Amanda townships, and after his father's death fell heir to all the property as the only surviving son. When twenty years old he enlisted as a member of Company E, Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served faithfully with his command until honorably discharged at the close of the war. After the termination of hostilities Mr. Oman returned to his Ohio home and quietly resumed farm work, in which he showed that industry and steady application which in the long run are the direct factors of success. In 1867 he was married to Minerva, daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Bibbler) Newell, of Jackson township. The only child of this union was a daughter named Emma, who was born in 1868 and died March 18, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Oman are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has held some offices. Mr. Oman ranks as one of the leading as well as most popular citizens of his neighborhood, and has been honored by election to important township offices. He is a Republican in his political views, but in local affairs votes for the man best fitted for the office, regardless of party.

WILLIAM HECKERT.

This name will need no introduction in circles acquainted with the inventions in machinery of the higher class or the present history of applied mechanics in its various departments. In certain lines of inventive skill Mr. Heckert is better known than any man in the country, and it is difficult to say which is the more wonderful, the ingenuity or the multiplicity of his achievements in mechanical science. The list is so long and the devices so numerous that it is impossible in this space to find room even for a bare catalogue, but a few general remarks may give some conception of Mr. Heckert's contributions to the intellectual progress of this phenomenal age. He has designed and built over one thousand different machines, all of which have gone into use in the fac-

tories of this country and many of which have made large fortunes for their purchasers. A very large and significant portion of his business has been that of correcting the imperfections of other men's inventions. Hundreds of these which had failed of their purpose, being brought to Mr. Heckert, were redesigned by him and made operative. This process, like making a new coat out of an old one, is regarded by experts as more difficult than building a machine from the beginning, the serious bar consisting in the limitations and restraints imposed by the imperfections and the retention of old parts for the sake of economy. Perhaps his greatest single achievement was the invention of what was known in the scientific world as the hot rolled seamless tube, which is regarded as an epoch-making discovery in the steel industry. During his career at Providence it was Mr. Heckert's business to bid upon and take contracts to design and build new and untried machines to perform a given work impossible before of accomplishment and at a fixed price and at a time limit. His success in this line at the time gave him the reputation of being the greatest mechanical genius in all New England. Circumstances and his versatile talent led him from one accomplishment to another, up to the perfection of machinery that promises to revolutionize the steel industry of the world. His mechanical and scientific research and attainments have been more extensive than it is possible to describe in this biography, but it is safe to predict that in the history of great accomplishments he will take his place among the greatest.

William Heckert was born at Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, in 1842, and at the age of five years his parents removed to a farm in Butler county, where he grew up and received his education in the common schools. When twenty years old he went to Pittsburg, where he learned wood carving and stair building, seven or eight years being spent in that city and at Sharon, Pennsylvania. After that time he lived four years at Newcastle, in the same state, where he was engaged in the manufacture of printing presses. But his establishment having been destroyed by fire in February, 1872, he sought a location at Providence, Rhode Island, where he spent the five subsequent years. In that city his special genius first commenced to show itself decidedly, as there he originated the first automatic presses for color printing and also those for printing tickets. He organized the Monitor Press and Machine Company and carried on the business of manufacturing and selling the Monitor presses, as also the designing and building of special machinery of all kinds for nine years. He made and sold fifteen hundred of the Monitor presses, meantime designing and building over a thousand different machines for as many different purposes, from watchmaking to locomotive building, from delicate geo-

metrical lathes for engraving bank notes to the ponderous machinery for driving cable railways. In 1878 Mr. Heckert's factory was absorbed by the National Bank Note Company, of New York, and soon afterward this company was consolidated with the American National Bank Note Company and the Continental Bank Note Company. Mr. Heckert was made general superintendent of the mechanical department and held that highly responsible position for three years, after which time he went into the manufacture of special machinery at Yonkers, New York. He continued in this line several years and then merged his business with the Korting Gas Engine Manufacturing Company, of Germany, with headquarters in New York City. Mr. Heckert, being made general superintendent of the business, first improved the Korting engine and soon afterward designed a gas engine of his own on a greatly improved plan, which he sold to the Korting Company, and this they have since been building in place of their own.

In 1889 Mr. Heckert came to Findlay, Ohio, and for three years had charge as superintendent of the Kellogg Seamless Tube Company, which business he completely reorganized and placed on a firm basis. When this remodeled plant started up it turned out, without hitch or bolt, the hot rolled seamless tube for the first time in the history of the world.

In 1892 he retired from the Kellog Company, since which time he has been connected with various enterprises, and at present is engaged with Judge Henry W. Seney, of Toledo, Ohio, in the introduction of their "Trimotor," which scientific and engineering experts admit to be the most meritorious invention and discovery of modern times. The utilization of fuel from which the world derives nearly all its artificial light and power, has been so imperfect that nine-tenths of its heat energy has been wasted, or 90 cents out of every dollar paid for fuel, light and power has been thrown away. This condition has been reversed by Mr. Heckert's scientific work, and nine-tenths of the heat energy of fuel can now be utilized. The self-firing "Trimotor" now being introduced, using crude oil as fuel, furnishes steam heat, hot and cold water wherever wanted, with gas as fuel for cook stoves and electric light for domestic and all other purposes. The "Trimotor" is adapted to all motive power purposes, dispensing with firemen, smoke stacks and the smoke nuisance, giving three times as much power from a given quantity of fuel, as the best steam or gas engines now give, thus making the most valuable scientific advance of modern times.

On the 25th of December, 1869, Mr. Heckert was united in marriage to Laura, daughter of Lester M. Williams, of Sharon, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Heckert claims descent from Roger Williams, the famous religious reformer

at the period of the first Puritans in New England. Mr. Heckert is not connected with any religious denomination and has but little time to spare from his busy life for anything but his special pursuits. He served, however, for one term in the Findlay city council, being elected to that position by the Republican party, to which he has always given his political allegiance. Two of his father's older brothers served in the war of 1812 in the United States army, while their parents resided where Germantown, Pennsylvania, is now located.

RUFUS E. TAYLOR.

This gentleman, at present with the Sucker Rod Company at Findlay, has had an interesting career in oil, and can relate some graphic experiences of the ups and owns of that hazardous but fascinating business. One year getting a salary of $150 a month, the next glad to work for $20; now on the high tide of success with money in the bank, and a fortune in sight, and later completely out of both friends and work, and in that rueful condition which speculators denominate as "busted." Such are a few of the contrasts which Mr. Taylor experienced and can describe graphically as well as amusingly, but in the end fickle fortune smiled upon him, crowned his labors with success and enabled him to extract from the slippery subterranean fluid the means of competence and comfort.

Rufus E. Taylor was born on a farm in Geauga county, Ohio, June 6, 1859, and remained at home until thirteen years old, after which he got only two months' schooling. At the tender age mentioned the boy went alone to Petrolia, Pennsylvania, to clerk in a grocery store owned by his brother, E. C. Taylor. He remained there, however, but a short time, then returned to Ohio, and worked on a farm in Lake county for seven months, after which, with the restlessness of youth, he again went back to Petrolia. This time he engaged in the oil business and when only fifteen years old was getting $80 per month, which was increased in the following year to $150 per month. The wheel of fortune, however, took a turn before his departure from Petrolia, which occurred in 1877, when he was in that impecunious condition described by the initiated as "broke." The next move took him over to Connecticut and in this "land of steady habits" he was glad to get a job at $20 a month, for which he worked about one year and again turned his face westward. Going back to his home county in Ohio, he was married there in 1880 to Ella L., daughter of William L. Leland, after which event he remained quietly at home for a year and a half. Six months were then spent in the employment

of a firm engaged in the oil business in Allegany county, New York, when again we find Mr. Taylor in Geauga county running a threshing machine. This occupation lasted during one fall and winter and in 1886 Mr. Taylor came to Findlay with scarcely a dollar in his pocket. Nothing daunted, however, he formed a partnership with H. A. Watts and E. C. Taylor for the drilling of oil wells by contract and this venture proved another favorable turn in his fortunes. He operated with his partners until August, 1897, when he disposed of his interests and found himself in possession of a handsome profit. Feeling entitled to a rest, Mr. Taylor put in a year or so in travel, being absent from Findlay until the spring of 1898, and two years later he purchased a half interest in the Findlay Sucker Rod Company, which he disposed of in March, 1902. Mr. Taylor's political affiliations are with the Republican party, and he served one year on the city board of improvements of Findlay. His fraternal connections are with Masonry, in which he has reached the thirty-second degree, the Elks, Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

FRANK VAN SANT.

Frank Van Sant, one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of Jackson township, shows in his methods of farm management deep scientific knowledge, combined with sound practical judgment, and the results show that high class farming as an occupation can be made profitable as well as pleasant.

Mr. Van Sant was born in Liberty township, this county, January 1, 1854, his parents being William and Harriet (Mains) Van Sant. The father was born in Maryland, January16, 1812, of Holland ancestry, the name being originally spelled Van Zant, but was changed by him during boyhood upon entering school. During his youth he learned the tailor's trade, which he followed in the south for some years. Making considerable money, he lived rather extravagantly, paying eighteen dollars per yard for the cloth in his wedding suit; one hundred and fifty dollars for a watch; fifty dollars for a chain and five dollars for a key. He was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 28, 1847, to Miss Harriet E. Mains, the ceremony being performed by Rev. John Stone. She was born July 7, 1824, a daughter of Jacob and Harriet Mains, who were of German descent. A few years after his marriage Mr. Van Sant removed to Hancock county, but after spending a short time here returned to Fairfield county. About 1850 or 1851 he again came to Hancock county and settled on a farm in Liberty township, five miles

MRS. FRANK VAN SANT.

FRANK VAN SANT.

northwest of Findlay, where he resided for four or five years. He made money in land trading, owning at different times several farms in this county, his name appearing on more records in the county seat than that of any other man up to the time he left the county, about 1884. He finally secured the farm on which his son Frank now lives, the latter being at that time eighteen years of age. From this farm the father removed to Findlay in the fall of 1876, and subsequently went to Georgia, where he made his home for about sixteen years, living retired at Dalton and at Tunnel Hill. For a year and a half prior to his death he resided with his son Frank at the present home of the latter, and there passed away on the 7th of July, 1900. His wife had died at their home in Dalton, Georgia, from cancer, August 16, 1887, at the age of sixty-three years, one month and nine days. During her residence in the south she returned to Ohio two or three times, her last visit being only a few weeks before her death. Her remains were interred in the Maple Grove cemetery. For thirty-three years she was an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was beloved by all who knew her.

The subject of this sketch is the fourth in order of birth in a family of ten children, the others being as follows: Homer H., an engineer living in Muncie, Indiana; Solon B., a farmer of Hancock county, who died February 22, 1900; Orril A., who died at the age of two years; Albert R., a farmer of Jackson township, this county; Clayton, a farmer of Deshler, Ohio; Sarah J., the wife of U. S. Fetters, of Jackson township; Viola, wife of William Oman, a retired citizen of Findlay; Alice, wife of A. C. Shank, of Deshler; and Elizabeth, who was murdered while standing in her own doorway, December 21, 1897, at the age of thirty-two years, three months and ten days. She was a most estimable lady, who was devoted to her parents and remained with them until her death.

During his minority Frank Van Sant gave his father the benefit of his labors. He accompanied the family on their removal to his present farm and when his father decided to locate in town he took charge of the place and has since engaged in its operation, his youngest brother remaining with him one winter.

On the 11th of March, 1877, Mr. Van Sant was united in marriage to Miss Phebe A. Van Horn, a daughter of George W. and Nancy (Morehart) Van Horn. The father was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and is now living with Mrs. Van Sant at the age of seventy-five years. He is the eldest of five brothers living in this county, the others being Moore, of Amanda township; Robert, of Jackson township; and Charles E.

and John, both of Amanda township. George W. Van Horn was educated in the schools of Hancock county and taught for several years in early life at fifty cents per day. His brother Moore was also a teacher and his daughter, Mrs. Van Sant, followed the same occupation in Jackson and Amanda townships prior to her marriage. She was educated in the Mount Blanchard and Findlay high schools. Her father became one of the successful farmers of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Van Sant have two daughters: Cora, who completed her education in the Mt. Blanchard high school and taught for two years, is now the wife of John N. Edie, who operates one of our subject's farms, and they have one child, Arthur. Jessie, the younger daughter, is at home with her parents and is still in school.

For a few years after his marriage Mr. Van Sant rented his father's farm, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, and then bought one hundred and sixty acres and later the remainder of the tract. Since then he has purchased fifteen acres more a mile distant. His wife being one of two daughters, received one-half of her father's estate, and buying her sister's interest, became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, comprising the Van Horn homestead. To this has been added an adjoining tract of eighty acres, so that she and her husband now lack only five acres of five hundred acres. Upon the home place has been erected good and substantial buildings, including a modern residence, and there are also two other houses upon the land, which is rented. Mr. Van Zandt has also laid considerable tiling, so that his land is now in first class condition, being rich and productive, yielding a golden tribute in return for the care and labor bestowed upon it. In connection with general farming he carries on stock raising, making a specialty of sheep, of which he keeps from three to five hundred head upon his place. These are of a high grade and he realizes a good income both from the wool and mutton. Mr. Van Sant's residence, one of the best in the township, was built in 1897, at a cost of about four thousand dollars. On the home farm there are eight producing gas wells.

Originally Mr. Van Sant was a Democrat in politics, but his views on the tariff question were more in accordance with the principles of the Republican party, and he is now a stanch supporter of the latter. He is generally a delegate to the county conventions of his party and was at one time a candidate for county commissioner. For four years he acceptably served as township treasurer and he has always been found true and faithful to any trust reposed in him, whether public or private. Both he and his wife are active and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Houcktown, and during his entire membership with that congregaion he has served

as trustee and steward. The family are faithful attendants at both church and Sunday-school. Fraternally Mr. Van Zandt is a member of the Masonic lodge at Findlay and the Odd Fellows lodge at Mount Blanchard. He commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life, and is held in the highest regard by all who know him.

HEZEKIAH CORWIN.

Hezekiah Corwin, who now lives retired from active business, in his pleasant home at Findlay, was born on a farm in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1836, and is a son of Peter Corwin, who was born in 1810, in Pennsylvania, but who died on his farm in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1860. He was a son of Morris Corwin, who also died in the same county, in 1852, when about seventy years of age. The two surviving children of Peter Corwin are our subject and his sister Harriet, who is the wife of John Phifer, of Hancock county, Ohio.

Hezekiah Corwin was but an infant when his parents moved from the farm in Wayne county to the the village of Perrysburg, and a few years later to Jeromeville, now in Ashland county, Ohio. In 1849 the family removed to Findlay, where our subject acquired the most of his education, as he lived on a farm just outside the corporation limits. After attaining his majority, Mr. Corwin learned the brick mason's trade and followed the same for some years. When the Civil war broke out, it found him ready and willing to do his duty, and in August, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for twenty months, receiving then an honorable discharge on account of disability, being at that time a corporal with every indication of promotion. During a great part of the time he was detailed as wagon driver.

Upon leaving the army, Mr. Corwin returned to Findlay, but the business depression of that time made it difficult to obtain work and finally he returned to his trade and followed it for three years. He then engaged in farming and also in teaming for several years, and then opened a livery stable at Bluffton, Ohio. Nine months later he decided to remove his business to Findlay, where he successfully conducted a stable until about 1887, when a favorable opportunity was offered for disposing of his interests and Mr. Corwin sold to advantage. In 1889 he again embarked in the business and carried it on for three years, since then living retired.

In 1869 Mr. Corwin was married to Miss Sarah Spangler, in Findlay,

and one daughter, Nellie, was born to this marriage. In politics our subject is identified with the Republican party. The family is well known, as Peter Corwin was a very successful teacher for many years.

ABSALOM P. BYAL.

This gentleman, now a retired business man of Findlay, is one of those interesting characters who act as connecting links between the pioneer past and the progressive present. He has been a resident of Hancock county since 1833, a period of nearly seventy years, and during that time has witnessed practically the whole development of both county and city. His career covers a period of momentous events in the history of state and nation, including three of the national wars, and that marvelous settlement and organization of the great chain of states which stretch from the Mississippi to the distant shores of the Pacific. Nor was Mr. Byal by any means an idle spectator of this vast national panorama of moving pictures. He did his full share in helping along the industrial growth of this section, and, as will be seen later, figured conspicuously both in the public and private business affairs of his county. The name of Byal is of French origin, and the founder of the family in this country emigrated from France with an English wife and settled in Maryland about the middle of the eighteenth century. This emigrant left one son, named Peter, who served in the Revolutionary war, and another named William Byal, who was born near Baltimore, Maryland, in 1765, and came to Stark county, Ohio, in March, 1810. He engaged in farming there, and so continued until September, 1833, when he removed to Hancock county, resumed his old occupation of tilling the soil and was thus employed until death terminated his labors in 1840. He was married twice, his second wife being Catherine Shilling, who died April 14, 1865, leaving five children, four of whom are living.

Absalom P. Byal, eldest of the children last mentioned, was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 19, 1821, and was consequently twelve years old when brought by his parents to Hancock county. He grew up on the farm in Findlay township and made his first independent business venture in his eighteenth year, by purchasing and driving a team, which occupation was later varied by farming, trading and other pursuits. It was his custom in those youthful days to eke out his income by teaching during the winters and shipping a little grain in season. So things went along until 1842, when he secured appointment as deputy sheriff of Hancock county, and was employed in that capacity during the following two years. In 1846 he was elected sheriff for a

term of two years, but after serving half that time resigned to accept appointment as clerk of the court, in which office he served for six and one-half years. He then began farming a tract of land which he had purchased in Findlay township and on which he lived during the next six years. In 1861 he removed to Findlay, lived there until 1867, and then moved to another farm within the corporation limits, which became his permanent residence.

Mr. Byal is a member of the Democratic party, and in the past has been prominent as one of its leaders. In 1883 he was elected to represent Hancock county in the legislature, and made so satisfactory a record that he was rewarded by re-election in 1885. Still higher honor was conferred upon him when, in 1873, he was chosen as the representative of his party and county in the constitutional convention of that year. In addition to this he was at one time elected justice of the peace, but resigned from that office before his term had expired. Mr. Byal is a communicant of the Presbyterian church and long conspicuous in Masonry, being the oldest member of that order in Hancock county, who was created a Mason here.

In September, 1845, Mr. Byal was married, at Findlay, to Sarah A., daughter of A. Youngkin, and by this union there were five children, of whom four grew to maturity: Clara E., wife of P. W. Ball, of Springfield, Ohio; Sarah C., wife of Dr. Cass R. Carlin, deceased; William A., of Findlay; and Ida H., wife of J. J. Bradner, of Marion, Indiana. The mother died in May, 1865, and Mr. Byal contracted his second matrimonial alliance with Sally Mavety, to whom he was married at Findlay, in October, 1867. Of the two children resulting from this union, Nellie was drowned at the age of three years, and George F. makes his home with his father. Mrs. Byal died February 16, 1897.

GOTLOB D. FISHER.

John Fisher was a man of consideration in his native land of Germany and occupied a position of prominence in the business affairs of his community. Like all other Germans he was compelled to serve his time in the army, but as it was an era of peace, nothing notable occurred during his military career. After this enforced service he returned to his home, where he prospered and held the office of constable, which is a much higher and more responsible position than the one of similar designation in this country. In early manhood he married and with his wife Frederika, carried out a long cherished design by emigrating to the United States in 1857. Making his way to Hancock county, Ohio, he tarried for a while in Washington township

and later bought eighty acres of land in the township of Cass. He and his good wife soon made this farm "blossom as the rose" and when prosperity visited them a fine brick residence was erected, in which they lived with comfort and reared their offspring. They were members of the Lutheran church, led exemplary and useful lives and gained the good will of all their neighbors. Mrs. Fisher died in 1869, and her husband passed to his final rest in the year 1884. Of their nine children the only survivors are William, Philip, Caroline and Gotlob D. Fisher. The latter, who is the subject of this sketch, was born in Germany, June 2, 1843, and was consequently fourteen years of age when brought to Ohio by his parents. He had received some education in his native land, and his studies were continued after arrival in the schools of Hancock county. His chief difficulty, however, was the acquisition of our somewhat complicated language, but by dint of perseverance, study and contact with American boys and girls, the bright German lad eventually mastered its intricacies and now speaks English like a native. As he grew up he worked and saved and in 1871 found himself able to assume the responsibilities of a landed proprietor, his first purhcase consisting of eighty acres in Big Lick township. This original tract was increased by various subsequent purchases until at the present time Mr. Fisher owns three hundred acres of well improved land. Among the neighbors in Big Lick township was a family of Camps, who enjoyed the honored title of "early pioneers," inasmuch as Henry Camp, the founder, had arrived on the scene during the period of first settlements. He entered the eighty acres of land, which was soon increased by the addition of as much more, and this, by skillful cultivation and management, was eventually made a very valuable property. While Henry Camp and his wife Cynthia were residing in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1843, a daughter was born to them whom they christened Orcilla, and this lady after she grew up in Hancock county, became the wife of Gotlob D. Fisher, the ceremony being performed in 1864. In the progress of years the household was brightened and made happy by the birth of numerous children, whose names are thus recorded in the family register: Henry; John; Cynthia; Joseph; Maggie; Edgar and Esther (twins); Frank, Flora and a deceased child. Mr. Fisher, as well as his wife and her family, was reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church, and he is one of the esteemed elders of that denomination. No man stands higher in the community as a citizen, while his thrift and skill as a husbandman command the admiration of all his neighbors. Mr. Fisher possesses the German geniality of disposition, as well as the German good sense and adaptability to surroundings, and these qualities are of great value as makers of friends.

JAMES WILSON.

The above named gentleman, who is at present city infirmary director of Findlay, is one of the oldest residents and has had quite an adventurous career during his long lifetime. He can say what few are able to say, that he has been an active participant in two of the nation's most important wars and his experiences in each have involved a number and variety of dangers unusual in the case of ordinary military veterans. The details of these adventures will be given later on, and here it is only necessary to add that Mr. Wilson is an interesting man to know, as he has seen much and can relate many interesting stories of accident by flood and field, which make him a pleasant companion to converse with. With these introductory remarks we will now proceed to give in outline the main events in the life of this veteran and pioneer.

James Wilson was born near Columbus, Ohio, in 1822, and there received such education as he was destined to obtain through the medium of schools. The Mexican war was on when he had reached his twenty-fourth year, and actuated by a desire for a brush with the "greasers" he enlisted, in 1846, at Newark, in Company H, Second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel George W. Morgan. His term was for one year, but that proved ample time to satisfy his curiosity as to the fighting qualities of our somewhat hasty-tempered neighbors across the Rio Grande border. He was in the battle of Marine, where one hundred and thirty of his regiment were surrounded by three thousand Mexicans, but managed to fight them off and then made a forced march to join the rest of the regiment, who were stationed twenty-two miles away. When the little band of heroes, foot sore and weary, arrived at this place they found their companions surrounded by the same crowd of Mexicans from whom they had themselves lately escaped. This was the principal adventure in the Land of the Montezumas, but while among the cactus and maguey plants of that interesting country Mr. Wilson was often in skirmishes with guerrilla bands or detached portions of the regular troops. After being mustered out of the service he made his way back to his Ohio home, and in 1848 came to Findlay, to stay in a jewelry store of his brother during the latter's sickness. He had learned the jewelry trade and was running a store at Newark when he enlisted for Mexico, but on his return from the war he worked at other points awhile and in 1853 came to Findlay. He resumed the jewelry business temporarily, but two years later took possession of a Hancok county farm and was engaged for three years in rasing stock. He then came to Findlay and was engaged in buying grain or working in a railroad warehouse until the outbreak of the Civil war changed

all his plans and affected his whole future career. As soon as hostilities opened Mr. Wilson began to raise a company for the service, but soon had enough men to make two companies, and on the 17th of April, 1861, received a commission as captain from Governor Dennison. He was assigned to the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as commander of Company A, and served as such during the three months' term of his enlistment, after which he was mustered out. Returning to Ohio, he proceeded at once to raise another company in Hancock county, of which he was made captain and which became Company G, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He went to the front with this company, and served gallantly as its commander until the fortunes of war made it impossible to communicate with his men or exercise any control over them. His first service was in West Virginia, where he took part in the battles of Scary Creek and Charleston, but being ordered west at a later date he was with the forces that fought through the bloody engagement at Shiloh. Subsequently he was in the Corinth campaign and under fire almost hourly at Rising Sun, Memphis, during the siege of Vicksburg, with the expidition up Red river and the fights at Arkansas Post and Jackson, Mississippi, being one of the first to enter the last mentioned place. In the spring of 1864 Captain Wilson's regiment was assigned to the army under Sherman, and participated with that great leader in the severe marching and fighting of that memorable campaign. July 22, 1864, while fighting in front of Atlanta, Captain Wilson had the misfortune to be captured, and he was soon afterward sent to one of those southern prison pens at Macon, Georgia, which no guest was apt to mistake for a first-class boarding house. He was detained here a month and was one of the five hundred prisoners sent to Charleston, South Carolina, to be placed under fire of the Federal batteries. After this experience he was "dumped" with his miserable companions in the middle of an open field near Columbia, South Carolina, without tents, cooking utensils or other necessities of camp life, and it is needless to undertake to describe their wretchedness and suffering. From this wretched den, on the 9th of November, 1864, Captain Wilson and eight of his desperate companions made their escape, but he was recaptured in July at a point in North Carolina, with four of his miserable comrades, two of whom were killed and the others sent to Asheville. Here Captains Wilson and Skelton were placed in an iron cage, where they were held a month, undergoing starvation, torture and miseries indescribable. From this point Captain Wilson was sent to Salisbury, North Carolina, and later to the famous den in Libby prison, at Richmond, where he was held until the city was evacuated and then returned to his home in Ohio. Besides a severe wound received at the battle

of Shiloh, Captain Wilson was not seriously hurt in his various fights, but he made many narrow escapes.

In 1867, after his return from the army, Captain Wilson was appointed revenue inspector and gauger for a distillery at Findlay, and later was made United States storekeeper also, holding these positions until President Johnson went out of office. He was elected city marshal of Findlay and held that office two years, and also served a year or so as chief of the fire department. His health failing about this time, he hoped to bring about an improvement by a trip to Arizona, but after remaining there a year returned to Findlay and occupied himself several years in small business matters of no special importance. In 1888 he was made city infirmary director, which position he has retained up to the present time. In 1849 Captain Wilson was married, in Franklin county, Ohio, to Lucylvia C. Taylor, who died in 1899. In politics Captain Wilson is a Democrat, and his fraternal connections are with Masonry, in which he holds the thirty-second degree, and Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is past commander.

WILLIAM W. COLE, JR.

Any one who takes a glance at the farm in Big Lick township belonging to the subject of this sketch would scarcely need be told that it is in charge of a first-class farmer, as all the outward evidences indicate this. In fact there is no man of this age in the county who can show better results for the time he has spent in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Cole was born in Michigan, December 27, 1857, a son of John and Sarah (McCree) Cole, and was four years of age when his parents came to Hancock county. Here the father purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he settled with his family and there reared his sixteen children. All of these are still living and twelve of them are residents of Hancock county. At the present time John W. Cole, Sr., is living at Findlay and is seventy years of age. He was born in Delaware, in 1832, and removed to Michigan in early life and subsequently, as previously stated, made another change to the state of Ohio. His wife died in 1879.

William W. Cole, Jr., was brought up and educated in Big Lick township. There he has made his home ever since, and there, as stated, he has achieved his success as a farmer. His first purchase of land was in 1887, when he bought forty acres, but this has been since increased by the addition of twenty-five more, besides a farm owned by his wife, which makes their total holdings one hundred and forty-five acres.

On the 24th of March, 1881, Mr. Cole was united in marriage to Miss Ellen, daughter of William and Mary Bright. They have a family of twelve children, ten of whom are living, as follows: Cloys M., Florence M., Ray C., Jessie G., Aura B., Edna M., Carl M., Mary A., Nana and Esther. Mr. Cole has always taken an active interest in township affairs and has held the position of treasurer and other minor offices. He and his wife, as well as the children, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he holds the position of class leader and is superintendent of the Sunday-school. In all the relations of life the Cole family, both the older and younger generations, have so conducted themselves as to be accorded standing as model citizens and neighbors.

ISAAC W. HOOPER.

The broad and fertile fields of Hancock county have been of such strength in the matter of production that its citizens have possibly been more permanent than in any other section of the state. It is thus the stranger will find a large number of the people of the county who are direct descendants of the pioneers who settled the country. The pioneers were honorable in the highest degree, and engrafted their life on the institutions of the county, and when they laid down their lives they passed to their descendants their many excellent traits of character. Isaac W. Hooper is a direct descendant of one of these pioneer families of Hancock county. He is the son of John and Charlotte Wiseman Hooper, the former born in Maryland, February 17, 1800, and the latter in Virginia in 1803. Before removing to Hancock county they had been residents of Fairfield county, Ohio. In 1832 they removed to Hancock county, locating in what is now Washington township on the farm owned by Isaac Hooper. At that time John Hooper entered two hundred acres from the government for which he paid the usual price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. He passed through the usual trials of pioneer life, clearing his farm by degrees, and adding improvements such as made it an exceedingly valuable piece of property before his death. To the original two hundred he had added forty acres. He was a carpenter by trade, and worked at that business in connection with the conduct of his farm. In religious matters he was a firm supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which organization he was honored with many of the prominent offices. The family consisted of seven children, four of whom are now living: Isaac W., L. D., John and Alma Patterson. The father died December 23, 1870, and his wife August 12, 1882.

MRS. ISAAC W. HOOPER.

ISAAC W. HOOPER.

Isaac W. Hooper was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 26, 1830, and was therefore in his third year when he came to Hancock county. He was reared in the township of Washington, and received his education in the common schools. He became in due time a tiller of the soil on his own account and has been reasonably successful in this pursuit. In 1875 he purchased his present farm of one hundred and forty acres, which he devotes to general farming. May 12, 1861, he was married to Mary Hoffmaster, by whom he has had five children: Etta, born April 24, 1864; Lottie, October 15, 1865; Lydia, deceased, born May 19, 1867; Anna, July 13, 1870; John, July 1, 1874. Mrs. Hooper's father was John Hoffmaster and her mother Rachel Eidler, both natives of Germany, and early settlers in Mahoning county, Ohio, where she was born, reared and educated.

It is proper to state that Mr. Isaac W. Hooper receives and merits the respect of his fellow citizens in the county.

JONATHAN NELSON.

This gentleman, now deceased, but formerly a well known citizen of Hancock county, was highly esteemed as a man and recognized as a farmer of unusual ability and progressiveness. His birth occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, February 24, 1816, and he showed promise of future usefulness at a very early age. After the usual term in the country schools, which in those days were rather crude as well as scarce, young Nelson turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and soon mastered all the details connected with farm work. In fact he showed a natural aptitude for this calling, was resourceful as well as industrious and in a few years had acquired considerable property, besides a neat sum of ready money. In early life he had the good fortune to find a most excellent wife in the person of Miss Mary, daughter of John and Sarah Pettigrew. This lady, who was a great favorite in her girlhood days and developed into a woman of great strength of character, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, August 30, 1819, and during her long married life with Mr. Nelson she proved to him not only a loving and most faithful companion, but a wise and prudent advisor in all his business affairs. In 1854 Mr. Nelson removed with his family to Hancock county and purchased a farm in Cass township. This land at the time had been but little improved and the residence was merely a crude log building. Mr. Nelson, however, brought to bear his trained talents in farming and soon produced order out of chaos. In due course of time the land was neatly fenced, ornamented with all necessary structures in the shape of barns and other

buildings, while the soil by the skillful methods known to the trained agriculturist was brought to that high state of cultivation so characteristic of the Ohio valley farms. Personally, Mr. Nelson became both popular and prominent. He was often called on to fill important township offices and was regarded throughout the county as a man of influence as well as a citizen without reproach. During their long and happy wedded life Mr. and Mrs. Nelson became the parents of fourteen children, of whom seven are still living, namely: William H., Hosea, Frank, Jonathan, Caroline, Catherine and Sarah. Six of these are at present residents of Hancock county, and each and every one of them enjoys and deserves the proud title of good and loyal citizen. John Nelson, one of the elder sons, joined the army during the Civil war and gave up his life that the Union might be saved. He enlisted as a private in the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, served loyally with that command and as long as his health would permit, but eventually succumbed to disease at Columbus, Ohio. Among the recipients of floral offerings made on Decoration Day to the heroic dead who surrendered their young lives in the sacred cause of the Union, none better deserves a wreath than John Nelson. Jonathan Nelson, after a life of usefulness and free from blame, passed to his last long rest November 7, 1896, in his eighty-first year, and few departed citizens have had more sincere mourners. His venerable widow, who still occupies the homestead, is passing the evening of her days surrounded by loving descendants and those "troops of friends" and well-wishers who constitute the best reward of a well spent life.

GEORGE W. ROSS.

The life of the gentleman whose name is above given has been one of continued activity and marked with unusual success as a teacher, a lawyer and participant in politics. His standing at the Findlay bar may be measured by the statement that the legal firm of which Mr. Ross is a member has been engaged upon one side or the other of most of the important cases tried in the courts at Findlay during the last eight years. Mr. Ross has figured with equal conspicuousness as one of the Republican leaders in all recent campaigns and has been prominently mentioned as a candidate for Congress. No apology is necessary for including the biography of such a man in any history of Hancock county, only regret is expressed that space will not permit of as full a presentation as the subject deserves.

The family is of Massachusetts origin, the founder of the Ohio branch of the name being Joseph Ross, who was born in the old Bay state in 1812, and

remained in the east some years after reaching maturity. In early life he engaged in the manufacture of thermometers and barometers in Massachusetts and Connecticut, his partner in this business being the father of the late Samuel J. Tilden. In fact, the articles of partnership for the firm were drawn up by Mr. Tilden shortly after his admission to the bar, and long before the beginning of that political career that was destined to give him such celebrity. Joseph Ross was an intense Abolitionist from the very beginning of the anti-slavery agitation, did much to spread the sentiment in opposition to this "twin relic of barbarism," helped to organize the Republican party and became one of its charter as well as most devoted members. In early manhood he came to Ohio and settled in Wayne county, where he engaged in farming and followed that occupation until the time of his death in 1895. His widow, the mother of George W. Ross, died in February, 1900, aged eighty-four years.

George W. Ross, son of Joseph, was born on his father's farm in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1854, and remained at home until seventeen years old, when he was sent to the academy at Lodi, Ohio, where he remained four and a half years. In 1875, shortly after reaching his majority, Mr. Ross entered upon a career as a teacher, which proved to be extended as well as successful. His first term was taught in one of the country schools of Wayne county, after which he secured a position in the high school at Sterling, where he spent several years and then went to Creston in the same capacity. His vacations during these six years of educational labor were spent in the study of law in the office of Hon. B. W. Woodward at Medina, and Johnson & Grave at Seville. In 1879 he was admitted to the bar at Medina, but instead of entering at once into practice he devoted the following two years to work at his old calling in the school room. In 1880 he opened a law office at Sterling and practiced there with success during the following nine years. It was in 1889 that Mr. Ross made his first appearance at the Findlay bar, his first three years' business being done in partnership with his father-in-law, D. R. Beardsley. This partnership being dissolved in 1892, Mr. Ross practiced alone until 1894, when he was united with W. H. Kinder to form the law firm which for eight years has been a power in the profession at Findlay. As previously stated, they have appeared in nearly all the important cases litigated in the local courts and in some of great importance, involving large sums of money. An instance of this kind was the case of T. & W. R. Carnahan against twenty-three insurance companies in as many separate suits to recover damages upon policies aggregating seventy-five thousand dollars, claimed as the result of a fire occurring in April, 1893. Ross & Kinder

represented the companies in this noted case, which was finally decided in favor of the defendants after seven years of litigation. The only official position held by Mr. Ross was that of city solicitor of Findlay, in which he served two terms with his usual vigor and ability. His prominence in politics is due to his recognized standing as a public speaker, aided by his readiness at all times to assist his party in its committee work and other labor devolving from the heated campaigns for which Ohio is noted. Mr. Ross's fondness for fraternal fellowship is gratified by membership in Findlay Lodge, No. 400, Knights of Pythias, Elks Lodge, No. 75, and the Royal Arcanum, No. 187. He is a member of the Hancock County Bar Association, and of the Symposium Literary Society of Findlay, of which Mrs. Ross is now president. It is hardly necessary to add that the family enjoys *entree* in the best society of the city.

J. Z. CHASE.

Possibly one of the most interesting documents held by any one in this vicinity is that in the possession of J. Z. Chase. It is the original deed to one hundred and fifty-three acres of land which his grandfather, David Chase, received from the government and it is signed by President John Quincy Adams. David Chase, a native of New York state, entered this land in 1832, about three years after his arrival. He had a son called Justus, born in New York state in 1817. This son became very closely connected with the pioneer life of Hancock county, enduring many hardships, maintaining the high esteem of his fellow citizens and securing for himself and family a liberal income through hard and constant labor. He held several important offices, among which was that of justice of the peace. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and adheres closely to the tenets of that faith. His wife was Mary A. Jones, who was born in 1822 and died June 27, 1889. He had eleven children, of whom seven are living. Mr. Chase has retired from active life and has taken up his abode in Findlay.

J. Z. Chase is the only son of his father's family who has remained in Hancock county. After spending some years in the district school he engaged in farming with the firm purpose of making it a profitable and successful business. In this he has succeeded well, and the farm on which he lives is one of which he can justly be proud. It has been his home all his life and he has kept up the excellent methods of his father, improved upon some and made his one of the best cultivated farms in this neighborhood.

In 1880 he married Miss Minta Henry, who was born in Orange town-

ship in 1855. He has thus linked himself with one of the old families of Pennsylvania, for James and Fanny Henry, her parents, are natives of that state. Mr. and Mrs. J. Z. Chase are the parents of three promising children: Roy H., born in 1881; Charles L., born in 1885; and Inez, born in 1888.

Politically the Chases have always acted with the Republicans; fraternally J. Z. Chase affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Maccabees.

JACOB PEPPLE.

In his capacity of member of the board of commissioners of Hancock county, which important office he held for a number of years, the gentleman whose name heads this sketch had an opportunity to render valuable service to the people, while displaying sound judgment as a business man. Though his life's occupation had been that of a farmer, he was observant of other lines of work and accumulated a valuable fund of practical, everyday knowledge which can only come from actual experience. Farming, however, is a great educator and generally when a man has managed all the details of a farm for years he is a good person to entrust with the management of offices and other agencies which deal with the welfare of the plain people, of whom the tillers of the soil constitute the largest and most important portion in every community.

Jacob Pepple was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, March 9, 1839. He was the son of Jesse and Mary Ann (Tipple) Pepple, and when nine years of age was brought to Hancock county by his parents, who took up their residence there in 1848. He was reared on a farm and March 24, 1861, married Amelia, daughter of Levi M. S. and Sarah (Alspach) Miller, a native of Hancock county. The children of this union, in order of birth, appear in the following summary: Elmer J., Franklin S., Josiah, Jacob C., all residents of Hancock county and engaged in farming and stock raising; Ellsworth remains with his parents; Sarah E. is the wife of H. Yanning; and Emma J. married S. P. Altman.

In 1890 the many friends of Mr. Pepple urged him to become a candidate for county commissioner, which he did and in the fall of that year was elected to that position by a majority of five hundred. Satisfactory service was followed by re-election, when his majority was seven hundred, and in all he discharged the duties of commissioner of Hancock county for a period of six consecutive years. The fellow members of the board during Mr. Pepple's

incumbency included some of the best known and most popular citizens of the county, as will be recognized by a perusal of this list: Isaac M. Watkins, C. W. Brooks, Christian Garber, H. B. Rader, J. D. Anderson and Benjamin Wineland. They disposed of much important business, requiring painstaking care and good judgment to avoid mistakes, inasmuch as the expenditure of large amounts of public money was involved in numerous contracts. The most important of this work was the construction of iron bridges in various parts of the county, the macadamizing of public roads and location of ditches, all matters of vital interest to the people and involving large expense. Another contract of much importance let by the board during Mr. Pepple's term, was that for putting steam heating and electric light equipment in the county court house. Heavy appropriations of the kind alluded to always elicit more or less criticism, but it is to the credit of Mr. Pepple to say that none ever aspersed either his good judgment or integrity, in connection with any matter involving the public expenditures. He was regarded as an unusually "level-headed" commissioner and his constituents were all pleased with the manner in which he had discharged his duties. Mr. Pepple resides on a neatly kept and pleasant farm five miles south of Findlay, and the many visitors to the cheerful household are always cordially welcomed. Mr. Pepple has always been a farmer and stock-raiser, is much wedded to agriculture and regards that as the main business of his life, other pursuits being only temporary and in the nature of diversions. He as well as his sons are regarded as representative farmers of the kind which have given Hancock county such high standing among the agricultural counties of the state.

JOHN M. MOORHEAD.

Andrew Moorhead and his wife, Letitia (Bell) Moorhead, came to this county in 1836. Two years before Andrew had entered one hundred and sixty acres in Portage township, and now he set about constructing a little cabin in which he might make his family comfortable. For fifteen years they occupied the little hut of round logs and here the Indian and white man would gather of an evening, for Andrew was a peaceable man and lived in harmony with all his neighbors. Indeed he was a great man in the land, and often did redskin and paleface come to him for counsel, for he was wise in diagnosis and skillful in the treatment of disease when it affected the horse. The Wyandot Indians counted him their friend and trusted him implicitly. He lived on the trail from Findlay to their hunting grounds. He was a power-

ful man and resolute, who, by his industry and progressive spirit changed the wilderness as by magic. In 1851 he built a large and comfortable house and for twelve years enjoyed the returns of a well spent youth, sharing them with his wife and children. Then in 1863 the wife and mother died, and the big heart of a large man was lonely. He took unto himself a second wife, and she infused new joy into his life by putting into the father's arms two children, the outcome of their union. Andrew Moorhead died on the 1st of April, 1885. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics a Republican. Eight of nine children by his first marriage are still living, and to these belongs the subject of this sketch.

John M. Moorhead, who was born June 11, 1836, was only six months old when his parents moved from Stark to this county. Like many men who received their education in the little district school in early days John learned his lessons in a little log house. In those days fancy educations were rare luxuries, the few months of instruction, confined to the winter season, barely sufficed to ground the child well in fundamentals. A teacher received but twenty-five cents a day and when the milder weather set in he was glad enough to find more lucrative employment. Children in those days learned largely to help themselves and many of their lessons were self taught. They learned to work hard for what they got and the habit of industry later stood them in good stead when they struck out in the battle of life.

The satisfaction of having acquired is perhaps the best recompence for hard labor and the conscientiousness of doing well whatever one undertakes is perhaps the secret of success. The listless swinging of an ax or the languid waiting for something to do would never have placed his name at the head of a pay-roll. It was the sure, strong and even stroke and his steady application that brought John M. Moorhead to the notice of the railroad company then operating in Ohio, who paid him the highest wages for construction work. It was but thirteen dollars a month, but that was in 1858 and money was worth more in those days than now. In May, 1864, Mr. Moorhead enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and after a service of four months was honorably discharged. He saw service in the valley of the Shenandoah, in Virginia. His two brothers, William and Josiah, served throughout the war. Mr. Moorhead is a member of Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Findlay.

In 1866, in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Moorhead bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, which at the end of ten years he held in his own name, having bought out his brother's half interest. He has devoted himself mainly to stock raising and it is in this branch of industry that he

has met with his greatest material success. Through the profits on hogs and cattle he has been able to increase his estate to three hundred and seventy acres. Most of this land he cleared himself and much of it needed draining. He has put his land in excellent condition and his farm is one of the best adapted to general agricultural pursuits in this vicinity. He has lived on his present farm in Liberty township since 1872. The house is a large and beautiful brick building, with all the conveniences of a modern residence.

In 1861 Mr. Moorhead was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Reed, by whom he had seven children: Ada R., born October 2, 1862; Joseph O., born December 13, 1863; Lettie M., born January 4, 1866; Thomas R., born February 22, 1869, and died in August, 1869; D. H., born June 1, 1872; Merrill M., born June 15, 1873, and died in April, 1874; Otis E., born November 23, 1876. Mrs. Moorhead is a daughter of John and Rebecca Reed, and was born in this county February 6, 1839.

Mr. Moorhead is one of the popular men of this county and a strong man in the Republican party. He has held several offices, serving as county commissioner one term, as justice of the peace two terms and as real estate assessor for his township. Mr. Moorhead belongs to the Presbyterian church and is one of the elders.

JOHN S. SOLETHER.

Prominent among the citizens of Hancock county who have witnessed the marvelous development of this section of the state in the past three-quarters of a century, and who have taken an active part in its development and progress, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, a well-known and influential farmer living in a beautiful modern brick residence on a farm of one hundred and two acres in Washington township. Mr. Solether has been for long years prominently identified with the social and public life of Hancock county and he and his family deserve mention in a work which purports to mention the leading families of the county.

Mr. Solether is a native of Germany, having been born in Wurtemburg in October, 1829. His father was John Solether, his mother's maiden name having been Dorotha Anger. These parents were also natives of Wurtemburg, as had been their ancestors centuries previous. When our subject was but four years of age his parents removed with their family to America, where they located on a farm in Holmes county, Ohio. In this section of the state they remained but a short time, making Tuscarawas county their next stop. Here they were not satisfied with the conditions, and soon found their way

John S. Luther

to Stark county, where they remained for a longer period. They next removed to Wood county, Ohio, in 1840. Here Mr. Solether entered eighty acres of land from the government which he cleared during his lifetime, and on which he lived until his death in 1854. His wife, Dorotha, survived him a period of eight years. Mr. John Solether, Sr., was a hard-working, honest, and trustworthy man. The family which he reared consisted of six children, two of whom were born in the fatherland. The others were girls and were born in Ohio. Of the whole number, but four are now living.

Mr. John Solether, who forms the immediate subject of this review, was educated in the common schools of the various districts into which his parents moved, but like all young men in pioneer life his education was somewhat neglected. He has never known anything but agriculture, a fact to which is probably due the very enviable position which he occupies among the farmers of Hancock county. He is one of those who have made a success of tilling the soil. He made his first purchase of real estate in 1854, at which time he bought out the heirs to his father's property. It consisted of eighty acres of timber land in Wood county, and to this tract he added forty acres more. This land he cleared and at one time or another added various improvements. He sold out in 1882, and purchased his present farm, which in general appearance cannot be surpassed in the county. His home is a magnificent brick of modern construction. Indeed, everything on and around the premises shows the guiding hand of the master of agriculture. Mr. Solether has twice entered the state of matrimony, first choosing as a companion Miss Anna M. Drayer. The union occurred in 1858, and by her one child was born, now deceased. The young wife died about a year after her marriage, and in a year and a half later Mr. Solether married Miss Caroline, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Miller. This union resulted in the birth of two sons, William A., and Ira D. Their mother died in 1885, having proved to her husband a faithful companion and helpmeet on life's journey, and it is but proper to say that her sound advice and assistance were important factors in her husband's prosperity. She is remembered as a lady of sterling excellence of character. William, the eldest son, after reaching manhood, was united to Sophia Rhodes and they have one child, Albert. Ira D. married Etta Mohler, in 1895, and three children have come to bless their home: Edgar, born April 8, 1896; Robert, born October 21, 1898, and another son, born June 21, 1902. The mother of these children was born in 1872 in Hancock county, and comes of one of the early and most honorable families in the county. John Solether is a member of the United Brethren church, and while he has never craved office, he believes in every

man sacrificing his own personal comfort to the good of the community, and during his lifetime has served in many of the unpaid offices of the township. His services as trustee have been characterized by much efficiency. It is our duty to mark our appreciation of such a man, who is true to every relation in life, faithful to every trust, diligent in the service of his country, and serving only the public good. In the evening of life Mr. Solether can look back over the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

EVAN DORSEY STEVENSON.

Evan Dorsey Stevenson, one of Jackson township's most progressive and successful agriculturists, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on the 18th of October, 1835, and the same year was brought to Ohio by his parents, Abalard and Matilda (Lawrence) Stevenson, who were also natives of Maryland. Although reared upon a farm the father turned his attention to commercial pursuits in early life and became a wholesale merchant of Baltimore, where he was engaged in business until coming to this state. He settled upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Fredericktown, in Knox county, just one mile and a half west of that city, and there engaged in stock raising throughout the remainder of his life. In politics he was an old line Whig. He died in 1859, at the age of sixty-two, having survived his wife about fifteen years.

Mr. Stevenson of this review remained with his parents until twenty-two years of age, receiving a good practical education in the schools of Fredericktown, and acquiring a knowledge of agricultural pursuits upon the home farm. On attaining his majority he went to Illinois, where he engaged in teaching school for a short time, and on his return home resumed his studies in Fredericktown. Subsequently he again went to Illinois, where he worked for about a year, but on the death of his father returned home to assist in settling up the estate.

It was in 1856 that Mr. Stevenson first came to Hancock county, but in traveling along the big swamp from Carey he was not agreeably impressed with the outlook here. In October, 1859, however, he became a resident of this county, where his father had owned one hundred and twenty acres of land, which tract became the property of our subject, who bought out the other heirs. At that time forty-five acres of the highest ground had been partially cleared, but much of the remainder was under water and the only building upon the place was a log house. The following year Mr. Stevenson dug a ditch which was three feet deep and six feet wide at the top and three

at the bottom, and as this drained off considerable water he felt more encouraged. This was the first ditch in the township and was the beginning of systematic drainage here. About 1865 our subject laid the first tiling in the township, buying the first kiln of tile burned by John Carst, west of Findlay, who agreed to lose one-half the cost of it if it did not prove satisfactory. About eighty rods were laid at this time and covered up. Many of Mr. Stevenson's neighbors came to see the operation but claimed that the water would never get into it. One old settler told our subject it was useless to bury his money, and his father-in-law, Henry Cooper, told him it was all nonsense. The following fall Mr. Stevenson sold his field of corn to Mr. Cooper for twenty-five dollars per acre in the stack, thus proving the success of the undertaking. At once others began laying tile, until to-day the county is well tiled and drained. Mr. Stevenson bought forty acres more, making a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which he tiled and placed under cultivation, having cleared about sixty acres of the amount himself. He also secured a separate tract of thirty acres, but has since sold eighty acres to his son, so that he now has one hundred and ten acres in two different tracts. His residence was erected in 1866, but it has since been remodeled and improved, making a most comfortable home, which is surrounded by good outbuildings that stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. In order to clear his land he burned much of the timber, which, if it had been marketed, would have paid for his land. Throughout his active business career Mr. Stevenson has devoted his attention entirely to his agricultural pursuits, never allowing himself to become interested in new enterprises, and to-day there is no better farm in the vicinity than his. He keeps a good grade of stock, making a specialty of thoroughbred sheep, and was the first to introduce American merino sheep into the county. These he has sold at fancy prices and made considerable money therefrom.

On the 28th of June, 1859, Mr. Stevenson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Cooper, daughter of Henry Cooper, who lived in the vicinity of our subject's home. Her father was one of the pioneers of the county, where he cleared and improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and became a well known farmer and stock man. He died at the age of sixty-two years. In his family were fifteen children, all of whom reached maturity and thirteen are still living, but Mrs. Stevenson is the only one residing in Hancock county at the present time. She was born here and is five years her husband's junior. They have a family of five children, namely: Henry, who is now engaged in farming on a place adjoining his father's; Lawrence, a resident of Mount Blanchard; Clara, the wife of Louis Hart-

man, of Jackson township; Evan, who is operating his father's farm; and Addie, now Mrs. Harry Greer, of Mount Blanchard, Ohio.

By his ballot Mr. Stevenson supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and formerly took quite an active part in local politics. He has served as township assessor and trustee, being elected to those offices in a Democratic township, which is an indication of his popularity and the high regard in which he is held by his fellow citizens. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Houcktown, in which he has filled various offices. He belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge at Van Lue and has passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge, and both he and his wife have taken the Rebecca degrees. They stand high in the community where they have so long made their home, and enjoy the hospitality of many of the best people in their section of the county.

MICHAEL LECHNER.

The subject of this sketch, whose name is above given, is one of the young man whose push and energy have led to the development of the great oil industry in various states, resulting in such rapid growth of communities and such frequent accumulations of individual fortunes. Though he has not "struck it rich" as some others, Mr. Lechner has done well at the business and in its prosecution has exhibited good judgment as well as energy and enterprise. He is of German origin, his father, Michael Lechner, having been born in the domains of Emperor William, in 1827, but he emigrated in early manhood to the land of promise in the new world. He located in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, but lived at various places after his arrival for periods ranging from two to twelve years. It was while his parents were living at Brooklyn, in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, in 1861, that Michael Lechner was born, and during the next twenty years he accompanied the family in their wanderings. His first two years were spent at the place of his nativity, the following six years at Sligo Furnace, and the next twelve years on a farm in the same county. During this period he picked up some education by irregular attendance at the county schools, and when he reached his majority began looking around for "something to do." His first venture was made in the oil fields of Allegany county, New York, where he entered a blacksmith shop at Allentown and worked in the blast furnace for the four succeeding years. Observing that there was an opportunity to make good wages by dressing tools used in boring oil wells, a kind of work then in much demand, he spent six years at this occupation with fair results. His next

work was as a driller of wells, and he adhered to this laborious employment for about seven years, after which he concluded to utilize the experience he had obtained in a more lucrative branch of the oil business. In 1886 Mr. Lechner came to Ohio, located at Findlay, and immediately engaged in contracting, later becoming an oil producer on his own account. This business he has kept up continuously since then and has met with a fair share of success in that line of industry.

January 26, 1897, Mr. Lechner was united in marriage at Detroit, Michigan, with Miss Malinda, daughter of Henry Croback of that city. Mr. Lechner is an advocate of the principles of the Democratic party and a member of the Roman Catholic church.

LEMUEL McMANNESS.

During his forty years of identification with the business interests of Findlay, the gentleman above mentioned has been a conspicuous figure in the various walks of life. Though at present absorbed in the management of his rake factory and stone quarry, he has in his time "played many parts" and it is not flattery to say that he has played them all worthily and well. His business experiences range from clerking in a grocery store to management of important productive plants, and his office-holding career embraces service both as city clerk of Findlay and sheriff of Hancock county. This was flavored by abundant war experience in youth, during which, as incumbent in various responsible clerical positions, he was introduced to the mysteries of feeding and managing a big army.

The family of McManness, which is of Irish origin, was first represented in America by James McManness, who came over during the latter part of the eighteenth century, and died in Pennsylvania about 1820. He left a son named John McManness, who was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in 1808, came to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1856, and there followed cabinet-making until his death, on January 1, 1866.

Lemuel McManness, son of the last mentioned, was born in Plainfield, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1846, and consequently was ten years old when brought to Hancock county by his parents. The latter located at Findlay and there Lemuel was attending school when the Civil war storm disturbed all ordinary occupations. In January, 1862, he secured a place as clerk in the sutler's department of the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served in that capacity about eighteent months. Being then appointed clerk in the office of the quartermaster of the army of the Cum-

berland, he retained that position a year and next entered the office of the medical purveyor, at that time located on Lookout Mountain. He continued with the purveyor's department about one year and a half, or until the close of the war, when he returned directly to his home at Findlay. He succeeded without difficulty in securing a clerkship in a grocery store and worked for his employer until 1870, when he made his first business venture on his own account by establishing a rival grocery store. This he conducted with more or less success for thirteen years, until he disposed of his stock and embarked in the manufacture of linseed oil, which at that time was a new industry at Findlay. From 1889 until November, 1891, he was engaged in the flouring mill business, having purchased the interest of Judson Palmer in the Findlay mill. This mill was destroyed by fire in November, 1891. About the same time he started a rake factory and between these various employments was kept busy until 1891, when he disposed of his oil interests, and in 1895 returned to the grocery business. In 1898 he became interested in a stone quarry, a year later retired from the grocery business and since then has devoted all his time to the quarry and the rake factory. These establishments are important contributions to the industries of Findlay, as they employ a number of hands and the sale of the products is an item of consequence in the general commerce of the city. Mr. McManness has found time during his busy career to pay some attention to politics, in which he has figured conspicuously on the Republican side. His fellow partisans gave him the nomination for city clerk in 1870 and after a spirited race he was elected. At the expiration of his first term, having served satisfactorily, he was again put forward and endorsed by re-election. This excursion into city politics was followed by a more ambitious effort in the general field, embracing the whole of the county and in this enlarged sphere Mr. McManness was followed by his usual good fortune. In 1884 he was nominated as his party's candidate for sheriff of Hancock county, made a successful race and served in that office a full term of two years.

December 16, 1875, Mr. McManness was married at Findlay, to Amanda E. Kimmons, by whom he has two children: Katie and Frank. While the foregoing outline will give some notion of Mr. McManness's busy life and his contributions to the industrial growth of his community, it is no more than his due to add a word or two of general commendation. It is a common remark at Findlay that he is the best known man in Hancock county, an acquaintance which naturally has grown out of his long residence and prominent connections both with business and politics. But what is more to the purpose is the fact that Mr. McManness, in spite of the friction inseparable

from party politics and the rivalry of business, has shown singular tact in avoiding enmities and securing friendships, with the result that while the best known he is also one of the best liked men in the county.

HENRY E. WITMORE.

In this sketch we shall deal with several persons, for the Witmores are not only interesting in themselves but they are connected with some of the leading families in the county.

Rev. Jonathan Witmore was born near Emmetsburg, Maryland, in 1810. He was a shoemaker by trade, well versed in the Scriptures, a thorough German scholar and a profound thinker. The truth, as he saw it through the faith of the Dunkard church, inspired him. He put aside the last and awl to tell his fellow men what he believed, and the conviction made him eloquent. He was a plain man of mental and bodily strength and spoke to plain people in a language that they could understand. He was an enthusiastic, active man, putting his principles into practice and living a useful life. The Rev. Mr. Witmore married three times. His first wife was a Miss Shatzer, by whom he had two children, one only growing to maturity. His second wife was Kate Coover, born near Monroe Falls, Pennsylvania, in 1813. She was the mother of eight of his children; six of the number are now living, among them Henry E. Witmore. The family was then living in Wood county, this state, where the father and husband bought at different times parcels of land—either forty or eighty acres in size—as chance directed. Mrs. Kate (Coover) Witmore died May 14, 1851. The third wife was Susan Smith, by whom he was the father of four children, all still living. Rev. Jonathan Witmore died July 1, 1880. He was of Irish and Dutch descent.

Captain Henry Witmore, brother of the preacher, was born in 1798, and served in the war of 1812, though only a boy at the time. His life was filled with excitement and adventure. He became one of the fiercest Indian hunters of the day and it was he who captured Robert Lewis. The Captain was a man of fine physique and great power. He was six feet two, and of symmetrical build. He lived for many years in Pennsylvania and as sheriff of Adams county was considered one of the best men ever put into that office. His property was part of the battlefield at Gettysburg.

Henry E. Witmore, son of the preacher and nephew of the captain, was born near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1842. In 1850, at the age of eight, the family came to Wood county, Ohio, and Henry considered that his home until after the close of the Civil war, when he moved

to Hancock county, where he now lives one a hundred and ten acres of fine farming land in Liberty township. There are twelve oil wells on this land, all flowing and bringing in a handsome revenue. Besides these possessions Mr. Witmore owns two hundred and sixty-three acres in Pleasant township and a four thousand dollar property in McComb.

December 29, 1870, he married Miss Etna I. Reed, who died March 22, 1892. Of this union were born two daughters: Eldora (deceased), on May 27, 1872; Alta M., on April 22, 1874, who has become the wife of Waldo Morehead. November 10, 1896, Mr. Witmore married again. This time he chose as wife Nancy Brown, who was born in Williams county, Ohio, in 1853. She was the daughter of Jacob and Catherine Brown, the former born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1815; and the latter in 1816 in Wittenberg, Germany, where she remained until twelve years of age.

She came to America in 1828 and married Jacob Brown, September 10, 1837. Nine children were born to them, of whom three have passed away. One of the latter was killed in the battle of Atlanta, Georgia, while serving as a member of the Thirty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Jacob Brown lived for ten years on a farm of his own near Fostoria. Mr. and Mrs. Witmore are members of the German Baptist church and the former is one of the trustees. In his younger years he had learned the carpenter's trade, and it was this that enabled him to enroll as member of the bridge building corps in the army of the Cumberland. As foreman of his gang, he came near meeting with death, and had many narrow escapes from the enemy. Once a bullet grazed his upper lip and another went through his hat. At the end of nine months' service he was honorably discharged, and returned to the quiet life of the farm. Mr. Witmore is still active, looking after his extensive interests and enjoying the good will and confidence of all who know him.

FRANCIS WILBER FIRMIN, M. D.

The gentleman above named, whose career it is the intention here to briefly outline, is at present the oldest practicing physician in point of years at Findlay. With the exception of the absence made necessary by his service as a soldier during the great Civil war, Dr. Firmin has been a constant resident of the city for the last forty years, and during that time has been conspicuous both in its social and business life, aside from his labors in the line of his profession. His connection with the various medical societies and fraternal organizations, including those devoted exclusively to the veterans of

F. W. Firmin M. D.

the Civil war, has brought him in contact with many persons in all the walks of life and few men are better known throughout his section of the state. The Firmin family boasts of a lineage both ancient and honorable, and traces its genealogy back to the distant period nearly a thousand years ago when William the Conqueror crossed the English channel and overthrew the liberties of the native people by the defeat of Harold, the last of the Saxon kings. With this conquering host, whose advent was destined to change the whole course of history, came Sir Solomon de Firmin, founder of the family of that name subsequently well known both in England and America. John Firmin, one of his descendants, was a member of that famous band which left England in the early part of the seventeenth century to escape religious persecution and founded the Puritan commonwealth in the western world. He was born at Ipswich, England, and had reached early manhood before making his adventurous voyage in 1630 to the shores of Massachusetts, in which colony he settled and became the progenitor of the American branch of the name. In after years descendants of this original emigrant found their way to various states of the Union, among them being the father of Dr. Firmin, who came to Ohio in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and located in Summit county. In Richfield, one of the towns of that county, his son, Francis Wilber Firmin, was born July 15, 1842, and when only two years old was taken by his parents to Springfield, Massachusetts. After a residence there of about one year, the family removed to South Hadley Falls, Massachusett, where they remained until 1850, and then went to South Wilbraham, in the same state. At that place Francis Firmin spent his boyhood, receiving his preliminary education in the common schools, came to Findlay May 9, 1862, and in the fall of the same year entered Oberlin College, where he continued his studies until the following July. At that period college circles, as well as every other branch of society, were profoundly stirred by the events then in progress and young Firmin shared fully the prevailing enthusiasm for the Union cause. Determined to join the hosts battling for the country, he went to Cleveland and enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged on the 10th of March, 1864. Returning to Findlay immediately thereafter, he took up the study of medicine in the office of his uncle, Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, with whom he remained until his entrance into the Western Reserve College at Cleveland, in the medical department of which institution he received his degree February 18, 1867. As soon as he obtained his diploma, Dr. Firmin opened an office at Findlay, and his continuance from that time on has made him the dean of his profession by reason

of being the city's oldest physician in years of practice. As a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society, and the Medical Society of Hancock county, Dr. Firmin is well known in his profession, not only over northern Ohio, but in other parts of the country. His activities, however, have not been confined exclusively to his own especial calling, but he has devoted a considerable time to public duties, serving four years as member of the city council, and seven years on the board of education. Dr. Firmin has been especially active and conspicuous in Masonry, with which ancient and honorable order he has been connected for more than thirty years. In 1868 he was made a Master Mason in Findlay Lodge No. 227; in 1871 he became a member of Findlay Chapter, No. 58; and in 1880 he was initiated as a Knight Templar in Shawnee Commandery No. 9. In 1890 he was created a Scottish Rite Mason at Cleveland and in 1897 became a member of the Mystic Shrine at Dayton, Ohio. For several years he has served as worshipful master of Findlay Lodge, No. 227, and was eminent commander of Findlay Commandery, No. 49, at the time of its organization, serving as such until December, 1891. Dr. Firmin is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1872 he was appointed examining surgeon for pensions for Hancock county and with the exception of eight years, during the administrations of Grover Cleveland, has served continuously in that office, being at present president of the board.

In politics, Dr. Firmin is an earnest supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and has several times been elected as one of its representatives in the common council of Findlay.

May 6, 1869, Dr. Firmin was united in marriage with Miss Mary L. D., daughter of Rev. John A. Meeks, and as the result of this union there are four living children: Scott, Dr. John M., Frank Bope and Carl Giles. It is but proper to add that during his long, active and useful career at Findlay Dr. Firmin has made many friends and enjoys, as well as deserves, their esteem and confidence.

COLLIN D. HAYWARD.

Collin D. Hayward is a representative of the commercial interests of Findlay, where he is engaged in dealing in lumber and coal, his operations in that direction being of a character that have won him a good patronage. Mr. Hayward is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Conneaut, in the year 1859. His father, Samuel Hayward, was born in St. Lawrence

county, New York, in the year 1826 and removed westward, establishing his home in Conneaut, where he resided for many years, as one of the most prominent and influential members of that community. Through a long period he was actively engaged in the banking business and was also a leader in political circles and was called to represent his district in the state legislature. He died in the year 1885, when about fifty-nine years of age, respected by all who knew him.

In the place of his nativity Collin D. Hayward was reared and educated and there remained until he was twenty years of age, at which time time he removed to Chicago, Illinois, where he continued for two years. During that time he was in the wholesale house of Marshall Field & Company. On the expiration of that period he came to Findlay, Ohio, in 1885 and here established a lumber yard, which he has since conducted. He carries a large line of lumber and building materials and also deals in coal, and his patronage has constantly and steadily increased as the years have gone by, so that he has prospered in his business undertakings and is regarded as one of the successful men of the place. Fraternally he is a valued representative of the Odd Fellows society, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Hoo-Hoos. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and while he believes firmly in its principles, he has never sought or desired office, preferring to give his entire attention to his business affairs, whereby he has won creditable success.

JAMES KELLEY.

The value of character is exemplified in every walk of life, no less frequently in the career of the farmer in a rural community than in that of a financier or professional man who makes his mark in the city. No where is sterling character more markedly in evidence nor in a broader sense a legacy of the people than in the busy and important farming regions of the middle west. There the sturdy character of the American farmer is as highly developed as anywhere in the United States. One of the best known representatives of this brand of Americanism in Hancock county is the prominent and prosperous citizen whose name supplies the title for this sketch.

James Kelley is one of the largest land owners in the county, the farm which he operates being a five hundred acre tract situated in Washington township, Hancock county, and part of it in Wood county. He is a practical farmer, as his environments indicate, and it is very evident by the appearance of things that he shapes and controls his environments. Mr. Kelley was born

in Wayne county, Ohio, January 18, 1831. He is a son of Zekiel and Rachel (South) Kelley. These parents were natives of the same county of Wayne, were married there, and were prominent representatives of the agricultural class in that county during much of their lives. They removed to the newer county of Hancock in 1834, where they located in Washington township. Here they purchased eighty acres of land, and passed the rest of their existence in the severe labor of carving a farm out of the primitive forests, a labor to which the younger generation are absolute strangers. Zekiel Kelley was a man of determined will, of great industry, of excellent business judgment. These qualities combined to make him a man of wealth and influence in the latter part of his life, and he was extensively and intimately connected with the growth and development of the county. He was a large owner of real estate, and during his lifetime, much of the best real estate of the county at one time or another passed through his hands. He also engaged in banking to a considerable extent. In those days pioneers needed money. Those needs were supplied by Mr. Kelley. He was a shrewd, far seeing, but honest and honorable business man. He was prominently identified with the public interests of the county, was a strong supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and was a firm believer in the tenets of the Baptist church. His birth occurred in 1793, and he died in 1880. His wife, Rachel Kelley, was born a year later, and outlived him by eleven years, dying at the remarkable age of ninety-six years. Their family consisted of eight children, one of whom, Sarah, was born in this county. The rest of the family were natives of Wayne county, Ohio. Of this number five are living. James and one sister are the only residents of the county.

James Kelley passed his boyhood on the farm, early becoming familiar with the labors of the field and meadow. He received what little education was current at that day in the district schools of Wood county, to which his parents moved when he was quite young. He remained a resident of Wood county up to 1855, at which time he purchased his present farm of his father, where he has resided as a successful farmer and loyal citizen up to the present time. In the year 1854 he took unto himself a life companion in the person of Emily M., the daughter of Reuben and Marian Bement, and by this union eight children have been born: Antoinett M., deceased; Dora R., deceased; Mary, deceased; Arthur B.; Albert A.; Ida M.; James and Frank. The eldest son, Arthur B., was united in marriage to Amanda Dicken. Albert A. married Josephine Lauterby. James led to the altar Lydia Fink, while Frank, the younger son, wooed and won Cora B. Balmer. The daughter, Ida M., was happily married to Charles Ernest, elsewhere represented in this

volume. The family of Mrs. Kelley were early pioneers of Portage county, Ohio, where she was born in 1827. The Kelley family, from their settlement in the county up to the present time, have been leading spirits in agricultural pursuits, and influential in the social and public life of the county. They are people who merit and receive the good wishes of a large clientele of friends. Mr. Kelley is one of the most successful farmers of Hancock county and owns its model farm. His house and barns are complete in every respect and fine examples of agricultural architecture. The barn is supplied with stalls and hot and cold water for all kinds of stock. He himself is the planner of this model barn, which is superior to anything of its kind in the county. All his buildings contain slate roofs and every convenience that ingenuity can suggest. He is a Democrat in politics, but not a member of any church nor any of the secret societies, though at one time he held membership in some of the latter.

JOHN W. SHOE.

This honorable and worthy citizen of Hancock county is an extensive fruit grower residing near the city of Fostoria, in Washington township. He was born September 17, 1839, in Montgomery township, Wood county, Ohio. His father was Fred Shoe, and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Kaiser. These parents were both natives of Stark county, Ohio, and were of Dutch descent. They grew to maturity in their native county, and after their marriage about 1835 removed to Wood county. Here the husband entered about eighty acres of government land, which he cleared and on which he made many ample and substantial improvements. He still lives at an advanced age, but sold his original farm and now resides in Michigan. His wife died about 1877. Their family consisted of fifteen children and of this number nine are living.

John W. Shoe passed his boyhood on the home farm, and no event of any importance occurred during his early life to vary the usual routine. He remained dutifully at home during his minority, and gave his best efforts to the support of the family. In 1856 he came to Hancock county and engaged in farming for Joseph Beninger, remaining here up to 1861. When the war cloud gathered over the nation, feeling that his duty was to his country, he left the plow and took up the rifle. He enrolled as a member of Company E, Forty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served with this command continuously until January, 1865. He was in all the battles in which the regiment participated until his capture by the enemy at

the battle of Stone River, December 31, 1862. From that date until May, 1863, he experienced all the horrors of prison life in that noted institution known as Libby Prison. On returning to his command he was promoted to principal musician, and was detailed as regimental clerk, which office he held up to the close of the war in 1865. He received his discharge on November 30, at Victoria, Texas. He returned home glad that the war was over, and conscious of the fact that he had nobly done his duty to the country which he loved. On his return to civil life Mr. Shoe began a connection with the dry-goods business, in which he occupied himself for the next thirty years. In 1896 he purchased his present beautiful home, where he is now enjoying the fruits of his former activity. His marriage was celebrated in 1869, the lady being Miss Sara, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth Overholt. By this marriage there were no children. Mrs. Shoe was born on the 15th of April, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Shoe are prominent members of the society of Hancock county. He takes an active part in the local public life of his township, having served for two years as treasurer. He and Mrs. Shoe are both very earnest supporters of the United Brethren church, Mr. Shoe being especially active in support and attendance upon the Sunday-school, with which he has been connected since 1866. Indeed he has made the rather remarkable record during that time of having attended on an average fifty-one Sundays each year. Mr. Shoe also takes delight in furthering the interests of the G. A. R., and is a member of Norris Post, No. 27, being at the present time a trustee.

JAMES SHEA.

The appearance of the above name naturally suggests old Ireland, as it is seldom borne by any except natives of that interesting and historically famous country. Few names are better known there than that of Shea, and it has been made familiar abroad as well as at home, by the worthy sons who have carried it with credit to every known land. It is associated with geniality and joviality, with wit and humor, with adaptability to all kinds of service and a remarkable aptitude of its owners for taking care of themselves under any kind of circumstances. Another soubriquet also not infrequently applied to them is that of the "fighting Sheas," which would leave the inference that in times of emergency these particular sons of Erin could be depended upon to hit hard blows for the cause they espoused.

James Shea, whose name suggested the foregoing preliminary remarks, has only been in America twenty-two years, during which time he has lived

in many places, but it is safe to say that wherever he went he left friends and well-wishers behind him, and that no community was the worse for his sojourn therein. He was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in 1861, and left his native land for the shores of America when nineteen years old. When he reached the port of New York in 1880 he had "the whole world before him to choose from." He reached the Buckeye state and located first at the town of Delaware. The prospects there were not inviting, and a year and a half later found our courageous young man "trying his luck" at Sidney in the same state. At this point he wisely determined to learn a trade and selected that of stone-cutting, the details of which were mastered in due time and with this additional equipment Mr. Shea moved on four years later to Cincinnati. There he secured employment in a marble shop, which lasted for two years, after which he worked as a journeyman for a short period at Knoxville, Tennessee, and Mansfield, Ohio. The last two engagements consumed about two years, and in 1892 Mr. Shea found a permanent abode at Findlay, where he has ever since remained. In this thriving county seat he opened his marble works establishment and from that time on has been kept busy at his calling, usually finding all the work he can do.

In 1895 Mr. Shea was united in the bonds of wedlock with Miss Bridget E. Hanfin, a worthy young lady of Sidney, Ohio, and their home has been brightened by the birth of one son, whom they have christened Walter J. Mr. Shea is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church, and in politics supports the ticket of the Democratic party. His place of business is at 136 North Main street.

HENRY HEISTAND.

There have been few residents in this portion of Ohio who have enjoyed to a greater degree the esteem and friendship of a larger circle of acquaintances than Henry Heistand, now deceased. He was a man of sterling worth, of genial disposition and unfailing courtesy, and these qualities rendered him popular, while his sterling character enabled him to retain friendship when it was gained. He was among the pioneer settlers of Hancock county, having removed here as early as 1830. His father, Jacob Heistand, entered three hundred and twenty acres of land from the government, before his decease occurred in 1853, at which time his real estate fell to Henry by the payment of a specified sum to each of the heirs, and the conditions of which were embodied in Jacob's will. Jacob's wife was named Elizabeth. Henry Heistand grew to manhood in this county,

and married Susanna Welch, both of them being natives of the Keystone state. Their marriage occurred in 1843, and their family numbered ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity. Of the seven now living four are residents of Hancock county, namely:—Harriet; Morris O.; Charles B.; and Jeremiah. Henry Heistand was a man of true worth and of wide influence. He was a consistent and active member of the Lutheran church, in which he was highly esteemed, and was honored with one of its offices. Politically he was a follower of Jefferson, and at one time served his township as treasurer. He died in March, 1878, his wife having passed away in 1872.

Mrs. Harriet H. Measel, daughter of Henry and Susanna Heistand, was born on the old homestead in 1845. She received a liberal education, and was excellently fitted for a life of usefulness. In September, 1868, she was happily united in marriage to Fernando Measel, the union being blessed with children as follows: Margaret L.; Minion B.; and Martin H. Mr. Measel was a native of Seneca county, Ohio, where he was born in 1841. The following year his parents removed to Hancock county. He was reared and educated in this county, and during his lifetime was an extensive stock raiser and shipper. The farm on which he resided contained one hundred and seventy-five acres. He was a man well and honorably known in the county, and held the esteem of a large number of friends. At the time of the Civil war, he was found among "The Boys in Blue" who went forth to battle for the Union. He enrolled in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which command he served until the close of hostilities. He served in all the battles in which his regiment engaged with distinguished valor, and was honorably discharged in 1865 as corporal of his company. He was a true friend, a good neighbor, a worthy and loyal citizen, a kind husband, and an indulgent father. In 1877 he caused to be erected a magnificent home, which stands now as a monument to his memory. His decease occurred in July, 1881, by which event the public lost a worthy man, his family a dear and loved father and husband. Mrs. Measel has a brother and two sisters not heretofore mentioned in this sketch. Mary E. is the wife of John Purkey, of Bloomdale, Wood county, Ohio; Sarah A. is the widow of Noah Bish, a resident of Fostoria, Ohio, and William is a resident of Lorain, Ohio.

SQUIRE CARLIN.

Hancock county has been the home and scene of labor of many men who have not only led lives that should serve as an inspiration to those who come after them but have also been of important service to their country

MRS. DELIA B. G. CARLIN.

SQUIRE CARLIN.

and state through various avenues of usefulness. Among them must be named the honored pioneer, Squire Carlin, who located here in 1826 and for many years was prominently identified with the growth and development of his adopted county.

Mr. Carlin was born near Auburn, New York, on the 25th of December, 1801, and was the oldest son and second child in a family of seven children. In the winter of 1806-7, when he was but five years old, the family left the Empire state and traveled westward to Erie, Pennsylvania, where they remained a few months. Late in the spring of 1807 they boarded a sailing vessel and proceeded by lake to the mouth of the Huron river, settling on the south shore of Lake Erie, a short distance west of the place of landing. The Carlins were the second white family to locate in Huron county, Ohio, but remained there only one year, when they removed to the river Raisin, settling on the opposite side of the river from Frenchtown, about two and one-half mile east of the site of Monroe, Michigan, where they lived until the summer of 1809. They next located on the site of Maumee City, now in Lucas county, Ohio, where the father continued peacefully tilling the soil until after Hull's surrender in August, 1812, when the report coming of hostile Indians caused them to flee southward over Hull's trail. Our subject's mother, with her children, mounted on two horses and carrying provisions for the journey and a few household articles, accompanied a band of refugees to Urbana, while her husband remained behind with the hope of saving his stock, etc., but his efforts were futile as all his belongings fell a prey to the savages and their English allies. The refugees passed through Fort Findlay and saw the soldiers still working on the block houses which were commenced the previous June. After stopping in Urbana for a couple of months, the Carlins located on Buck creek, east of the village, where they lived until 1814, when Squire and his father returned to Maumee, built a cabin near Fort Meigs and raised a crop of corn on what is now known as War Club Island. The following year they were joined by the other members of the family and moved to the old clearing north of the river. The buildings on the place had been burned by the British and Indians and new ones had to be erected. The parents spent the remainder of their lives on the Maumee.

It was there that Squire Carlin grew to manhood with no school privileges whatever, except three months on the Maumee river, and all the education that he possessed was acquired after he located in Findlay. In April, 1821, he was united in marriage to Sarah Wolcott, whose parents settled on the Maumee at the close of the war of 1812. By this union were born ten children, but only three reached years of maturity, W. D., the eldest of these

was a surgeon in the Union army during the Civil war, and died in 1862; J. E. H., now a resident of Findlay, crossed the plains with his father in 1849, and again went to the Pacific slope in 1853, spending twelve years in California and fourteen years in Nevada. He was interested in a quartz mill for some years and also did some mining. Sally W., the only surviving daughter, is the widow of Judge G. W. Myers. The mother of these children died in 1850.

Mr. Carlin visited Findlay several times before and after the settlement of Wilson Vance in 1821, and in November, 1826, purchased a lot on the southwest corner of South Main and West Front streets from Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory, the original town proprietors. This property is still in possession of his widow, it being the oldest continuous title in Hancock county. In a cabin built upon this lot he opened the first store in Findlay, his trade being to a great extent with the Indians. In 1828 he was joined by his brother Parlee and together they carried on business under the firm name of S. & P. Carlin for many years. Our subject spent much of his time traveling through the forest buying furs from the Indians, white hunters and small traders. These he would take to Detroit, where they were shipped to London, England. One winter Mr. Carlin purchased four thousand and six hundred deer skins and seven thousand coon skins. While engaged in the fur trade he suffered many hardships and privations. While on one of his trips in the winter of 1828 and very hungry, he came upon an Indian camp in the forest where several dressed animals were roasting before a log fire. Jumping from his horse he cut off a large slice of the roasting meat. One of the Indians present, seeing the avidity with which he ate, said: "You like um fox?" "Yes," said Mr. Carlin, "don't you?" The Indian shook his head. "Then why do you roast them?" was asked. "For my dogs," replied the Indian, who seemed much amused over the incident. The meat, however, tasted good to the hungry trader, who first supposed the animals to be coons, a much prized dish among the pioneers. Squire and Parlee Carlin carried on mercantile business for many years and also conducted the grist and saw mills on the north side of the Blanchard, on the present site of the Union block and the traction company's plant. These mills they owned for more than forty years.

In 1849 Mr. Carlin crossed the plains to California, being one of a company of fifty-five men, who started from Independence, Missouri, with mule teams which they had bought at that place and then broke in preparation for the journey. Our subject remained in the Golden state for two years, at the end of which time he returned home by water, traveling by way of the isth-

mus of Panama and New Orleans, where he had the twenty thousand dollars' worth of gold dust brought with him converted in to money. He then proceeded up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, where he purchased four watches, paying one hundred dollars each. One of these Mrs. Carlin still owns and it is a good time-keeper yet.

On his return to Findlay Mr. Carlin sold his store, which he had still retained while in the west and was then principally engaged in the loaning of money and in speculation, though he was also interested in general farming and the milling business as previously stated. He accumulated much property and became the second wealthiest man in the county. He was largely instrumental in building the Fremont & Indiana Railroad in 1853, now a part of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, extending from Fremont to Union City, Indiana, but in this venture he lost heavily, and afterward retired from active business. He was one of the largest landholders in this part of the state, at one time owning several thousand acres of land in Hancock and Wood counties. For many years he was in the banking business in this city.

In June, 1853, Mr. Carlin was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Delia B. G. Gardner, who was born in Jefferson county, New York, March 8, 1822, a daughter of James and Esther (Parker) Briggs, natives of Vermont and of English descent. Her paternal grandfather, Peter Briggs, was born in Massachusetts and became a very prominent politician of the Green Mountain state, where he represented his district in the legislature. Mrs. Carlin spent the first fifteen years of her life in her native county, and then accompanied her parents on their removal to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where she was first married in 1842 to Charles H. Gardner. For about a year they made their home in Wayne county, New York, and then they removed to Vermont, where they spent two years. The following two years were passed in Nantucket, Massachusetts, and from there they went to Sheffield and later to Worcester, that state, but finally located in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Gardner died at St. Augustine, Florida, in 1848, and a year later his widow returned to Cleveland. Subsequently she took up her residence in Columbus, Ohio, where she engaged in teaching school for some time, and it was there that she met Mr. Carlin, to whom she gave her hand in marriage in June, 1853. By her first union she had one daughter, Frances R. G., who first married C. Yonker and for her second husband wedded Edmond Dodd. By his second marriage Mr. Carlin had three children: Frederick P., who is now engaged in the hotel business in Findlay; Alice May, who died at the age of twelve years; and one who died in infancy.

Religiously Mr. Carlin was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in that faith on the 29th of November, 1892. In politics he was a life-long Democrat and during his early years took a very active and influential part in public affairs. He was the third postmaster of Findlay, in which office he served from 1831 to March, 1849, a period of nearly eighteen years. He was also treasurer of the county from June, 1831, to June, 1839. In his business dealings he was ever prompt, reliable and entirely trustworthy, and although he gained a far greater degree of success than comes to most men, it was because of his very energetic, persevering and capable management of his affairs. He was widely and favorably known and in his death the community lost one of its best citizens. Mrs. Carlin is one of the leading and most highly respected women of Findlay.

DR. W. C. ROLLER.

In the medical fraternity, although a comparatively young man, Dr. W. C. Roller has attained a position of relative distinction and occupies a leading place as a representative of his profession. His close application to business and the pre-eminently successful conduct of the important cases which have come under his supervision have made for him a place in the hearts of the community which he serves. During the short period of his practice he has won a large and constantly growing patronage, which is well merited, for he has qualified himself by a comprehensive and thorough mastery of the principles of medical science, and the best methods of applying these to the needs of suffering humanity.

Dr. W. C. Roller claims nativity in Van Wert county, Ohio, he having been born in that county on the 5th of September, 1870. His paternal sire was A. J. Roller, his mother's maiden name having been Mary J. Guthrie. Mr. Roller, the father of our subject, is a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, the mother a native of Steuben county, Indiana. Mr. A. J. Roller, the father, is at the present time a very prominent and successful farmer of Van Wert county. Here he is held in great repute, and is prominently identified with the public life of the county, his Democratic friends having chosen him frequently to the different offices in his home township, and he served for six years as county commissioner. He is an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which organization he is an earnest supporter.

Returning to the consideration of the chief points in the rather brief career of Dr. Roller, the writer notes that he was given an excellent education, laying the foundation of it in the district school of his home district.

He later attended the Middleport Normal School. With this preparation he repaired to Columbus, Ohio, where he matriculated at the Columbus Medical College, took a thorough course, and in due time was graduated from that institution. He, however, was not satisfied with his preparation, for he looks upon his chosen profession as being one attended with the greatest responsibilities—even the solving of the problem of life. He therefore went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he graduated from the College of Medicine and Surgery in 1898. His first location was in the community of Spencerville, Allen county, Ohio, but concluding there was a wider field for effort at West Independence, he went to that community in 1901, and was engaged in active practice there until October, 1902, when he removed to Arcadia. The marriage of Dr. W. C. Roller and Miss Ida Van Swearingen was celebrated in 1894, in Van Wert county. Mrs. Roller was the daughter of William and Margaret Van Swearingen. The union has been blessed with one son, B. Fay Roller, who was born in 1895. Dr. Roller is prominently identified with a number of the fraternal organizations of his community. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Tribe of Ben Hur, and at the present time medical examiner of the latter. He keeps in close touch with all affairs affecting his own profession, taking an active interest in the sessions of the Northwest Medical Association of Ohio, and of the Hancock County Medical Society. The Doctor and his wife are active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically the Doctor is an earnest supporter of the principles laid down by Thomas Jefferson. Among his friends he is a genial gentleman of cordial disposition, and has a very large circle of acquaintances in the community to which he is devoting the best years of his life, and who esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

JESSE I. BRINKER.

One of the enterprising business men of Hancock county is Jesse I. Brinker, a tile manufacturer, residing and doing business in Big Lick township. He was born in Meigs county, Ohio, in 1873, and is the son of C. and Ettie Brinker, both natives of that locality. Mr. Brinker came to Hancock county in 1896, and since that time has been actively connected with the business of this section. His whole life has been devoted to the vocation which he adopted in early manhood and of whose details he is a thorough master. His first venture was in his home county in 1889 and he has been continuously engaged in the business with the exception of one year since that time. He learned his trade with the Pittsburg Sewer Pipe Manufacturing Company,

was subsequently employed by the Roller Brothers in their tile yard for a period of three years, bought them out in 1892, and is now operating that plant on his own account. He has a capacity here of seventeen kiln per year and manufactures all sizes of drain tile. His close application to business and the sagacity displayed in the moving of his product have resulted in such a good trade that his future looks exceedingly bright. Mr. Brinker was united in marriage at Findlay, Ohio, January 1, 1900, to Inez Hall, an acomplished young lady of that city. She is a native of Hancock county, having been born in Big Lick township in 1878. She has presented her husband with one daughter, Alice F., born September 26, 1901. Mr. Brinker is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of West Independence, and is also a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Big Lick.

PRESTON B. CATHERS.

The oil business in Hancock county has been the means of assembling here many men of great mechanical skill, and one of these is Preston B. Cathers, who was born in 1860, on a farm, near Franklin, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Burrows and Rasanna (McMullen) Cathers, both natives of Pennsylvania, where he died in 1863, at the age of forty-five, and she shortly afterward. Her father, John McMullen, came to this country from the north of Ireland about the beginning of the nineteenth century. Her mother came from the north of Ireland as a young girl and lived about seventy-five years. Burrows Cathers was of Scotch-Irish descent and his father, John, was an old-time school teacher of Pennsylvania, living on a farm in summer and teaching in the winter.

Until he was seventeen years of age our subject attended school in the country during the winters, and worked in summer, and then attracted by the opportunities offered in the oil region, went to the fields in McKean county, where he soon began his business career. For some years he built oil well machinery and then engaged in bridge building. In 1887 he came first to Findlay, Ohio, and began the building of oil well rigs and continues so occupied. For some years Mr. Cathers was an oil producer, but he now occupies his spare time with farming.

In Toledo, Ohio, in 1890, Mr. Cathers was married to Miss Eva Bateman, and the son born to this union is named Merl, now eight years old. The parents of Mrs. Cathers were Johnson H. and Harriet (Keller) Bateman, the former a successful farmer who enlisted in the war of the Rebellion and served to its close. His father, also named John, came from England and first

settled in Virginia, from there coming to Ohio and settling on the Maumee river, where he farmed until the end of his days. In political attachment our subject is a Democrat. He is fraternally connected with the order of Odd Fellows, the Elks and the Tribe of Ben Hur. Since locating in this city, Mr. Cathers has made many friends by his upright business methods and his pleasant personal characteristics.

SALATHIEL V. ALSPACH.

The gentleman above named, now connected with the furniture business at Findlay, is a native of Hancock county and a son of pioneer parents. His ancestors, originally German, have been identified with the United States for over a century and the name has always been a synonym for good citizenship in whatever community its representatives might be settled. They have been connected with the growth of Hancock county for over seventy years, in various ways as suited different tastes, and have contributed their full share toward the steady development which has made the county prosperous. Henry Alspach, founder of the American branch of the family, came over during the latter part of the eighteenth century and secured a location in Pennsylvania. His son, Adam Alspach, was born in that state in 1788, removed to Ohio in 1800, remained some years in Fairfield county and in 1830 came to Hancock county, where he died in 1856. He served as a soldier during the war of 1812, and afterward followed agricultural pursuits with such success as to secure a comfortable competence. Among his children was Daniel Alspach, whose birth occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1811, and who was consequently nineteen years old when he came with his parents to Hancock county. As this arrival took place in April, 1830, he is justly entitled to rank as one of the pioneer settlers, the county at that time being sparsely populated and almost wholly undeveloped. When he grew up Daniel became a farmer and devoted his entire time and energy to this occupation until the termination of his life in 1891.

Salathiel V. Alspach was born on his father's farm in Amanda township, Hancock county, Ohio, November 23, 1858, and remained at home until he had reached years of maturity. His life at that period was similar to that of other country boys, a division of time between school attendance and farm work, interspersed with those occasional diversions which go so far to relieve the monotony of rural existence. When nineteen years old Mr. Alspach abandoned the school room as a pupil soon to re-enter it as an instructor and for a number of years taught winter terms in schools of Hancock and Wyandot

counties, while working on the farm in summer. In 1890 he came to Findlay to accept a position as assistant in the county recorder's office, and after filling this place a year, put in the same length of time as a deputy in the office of sheriff. In 1892 Mr. Alspach formed a partnership with P. W. Ewing for the sale of furniture, and since its formation the firm has been doing a growing business at Findlay, enjoying recognition at present as one of the leaders in their line.

In 1889 Mr. Alspach was married at Huntsville, Ohio, to Miss Edna, daughter of the late Horace S. Brooks. His political predilections are decidedly Democratic, but while he yields his party zealous support he asks nothing in return by way of office. Mr. Alspach has a partiality for the fraternities and gratifies this inclination by membership in various orders. He is a member of the various Masonic bodies at Findlay, including Findlay lodge No. 227; Findlay Chapter No. 58, R. A. M., Findlay Commandery No. 49, K. T., and Lake Erie Consistory, Cleveland Ohio. He is also a member of Zenobia Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Toledo, Ohio, and the B. P. O. E., No. 75, and the I. O. O. F.

JACOB ANTHONY KIMMELL, M. D.

Dr. Kimmell's claim to the consideration and esteem of his fellow citizens rests upon the basis of an honorable military record and an equally creditable career in civic life, during which he has served faithfully in various positions of trust, including membership in the legislature and incumbency of city offices. In these and other places of responsibility he has so demeaned himself and discharged his duties as to receive and deserve the title of a good citizen in the best sense of that term. Though not a native of Findlay, Dr. Kimmell has been a resident of that city for more than fifty years, and is a familiar figure to every inhabitant of the place. These introductory remarks will be amply substantiated by the following brief outline of the Doctor's career, whose presentation as fully as deserved is prevented by the limitations as to space imposed by the scope of this publication.

Jacob A. Kimmell was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1844, but came with his parents to Findlay when seven years old. He was attending school when the Civil war broke out, and in common with all other Ohio boys of that period was fired with an ambition to become a soldier in the cause of the Union. His ambition in this direction was at length gratified by his enlistment, in February, 1863, in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served with commendable gallantry as long

Rose E. Kimmell

J. A. Kimmell M. D.

as health and strength permitted. He participated with his regiment in numerous engagements, among the more important of which may be mentioned Chickamauga, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, New Hope Church, and Atlanta. At length rheumatism, more dreadful than the enemy in front, so afflicted young Kimmell that he was sent north to Jeffersonville, where he was detailed when convalescent as hospital steward and served in that capacity until the close of hostilities. He was mustered out of service in June, 1865, immediately thereafter returned to his home at Findlay, and took up the study of medicine. After a brief preliminary preparation he entered the Western Reserve College at Cleveland and was graduated by that institution in the class of 1869. After leaving college Dr. Kimmell first located at Cannonsburg, Hancock county, where he practiced his profession for five years and returned in 1872 to his old home at Findlay. The young doctor took well from the start, soon secured a living patronage and this has been retained and steadily increased from year to year during the three decades of his professional career at Findlay. Aside from this, however, Dr. Kimmell has figured conspicuously and creditably in many other lines. He served a term in the city council and for a number of years discharged the duties of gas trustee. In the fall of 1895 he was elected a representative from Hancock county to the Ohio state legislature, during which time he introduced and secured the passage of a bill giving the physicians of Ohio the first law for the regulation and examination of doctors. He served for two years to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. His tastes, however, are rather for his chosen profession than for politics, and it is in that line that he has achieved his most marked success and made the record by which he will best be remembered. During his long career he has often been honored by his professional brethren by promotion to responsible positions in their various organizations. For many years he held the presidency of the Hancock Medical Society, and in 1900 was elected president of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association. In addition to this Dr. Kimmell is also a member of the Ohio State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Mississippi Valley Medical Association, the International Association of Railway Surgeons and the International Medical Congress.

The lady whom Dr. Kmmell married is worthy of especial notice. Rose Evalyne, daughter of Ambrose and Annie Graber, was born in Findlay, Ohio, August 12, 1852. She spent her entire home life in that city, but was an extensive traveler, having seen most all parts of the United States and accompanied her husband on a tour of Europe, the Holy Land and Egypt in 1890. She was given every educational advantage, and at one time was a

teacher of German, of which language she was a fluent speaker, and she also served as assistant superintendent of the Findlay high school. On the 12th of January, 1875, at the age of twenty-two years, she was married to Dr. J. A. Kimmell, by whom she became the mother of an only son, Alfred G., born January 4, 1877. Mrs. Kimmell was a member of several social and literary clubs of the city, among them being the Pauline Davies and Carpe Diem, and she was also a graduate of the Bay View Reeling Course. Her life was a model one; she loved her home and devoted her talents to the furtherance of its best interests. She thought of her family first of all, but being a woman of abundant resources and of a wholesome regard for the welfare of her fellow beings she found time to enlarge her field of labor. She was active in charitable work of every nature, and was foremost among the noble band of women who contributed so much toward the founding and maintenance of the Home and Hospital, being its first treasurer, which office she held for many years. She was a good woman, and these simple words contain the highest tribute to one who for twenty-five years was a devoted mother, a stanch and unwavering Christian and one whose life and deeds comprehend in the fullest measure that charitable instinct so seldom seen in its glorious maturity. Her charity was equal to her ability; she was humane to an extreme; for the worthy in trouble her hands were ready with relief; distress in every form met her ready sympathy; her desire to work for the good of others far exceeded her physical ability; and none knew her but to love her. Wherever she went all were happier for her presence, and although her life was not long in years it was full of that good which makes one better and life more worth the living. The measure is not how long she lived, but how much. She departed this life on the 13th of December, 1900, at the age of forty-eight years.

Dr. Kimmell has not only traveled much over various parts of the world, but he is a close reader and student, and these qualities make him a highly desirable as well as instructive companion. As late as 1898 he went to the Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York for the purpose of taking a post-graduate course and learning all the latest discoveries and improvements in medical science. This is a sample of the professional pride which will not allow him to fall behind in the march of progress, and few physicians can claim to be better informed or more strictly up-to-date than Dr. Kimmell. The Doctor is not only a fine talker but a brilliant writer and especially fond of discussing the great problem concerning the future life which has puzzled man from the beginning. Though decidedly liberal in his religious views, he is a firm believer in the immortality of the soul, and on this

theme has written several articles with unusual earnestness and acumen. Taken all in all there is seldom found a man more deserving of esteem for what he has done or more interesting as a companion than Jacob A. Kimmell, one of the veteran physicians of Findlay.

JOSEPH P. REDFERN.

It is said that the noblest work of the pen of history is to state facts, describe conditions and narrate events which illustrate the progress of the human mind; that in the coming age the hisory of wars, even when presented in the fascinating garb of brilliant achievements, will be read more with sorrow and regret than with satisfaction and delight. But who would obliterate from Grecian history the record of the heroism of those who drove the Persian hordes into the sea at Marathon? No Englishman desires to take from the history of his country the deeds of her Wellington or Nelson, and what patriot would rob the history of America of the record of the victories of our army and navy in the several wars which our nation has been engaged, and deprive the people of the benefits and results of those grand achievements? Hancock county has among her citizens many of the noble boys who participated in the late Civil war, and it is not in the mind of the publisher of this volume to let their achievements go without mention. We present here in this gentleman one of the gallant soldiers who went to the front and distinguished himself in the service of his country.

Joseph P. Redfern is at the present time a farmer in Cass township, where he resides on a well tilled holding. In 1862, when the country needed brave and honest men to defend her honor, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier. His courage was severely tested in the following well contested battles: Stone River, Huff's Ferry, Lenore, Campbell Station, siege of Knoxville, Ft. Saunders, Dandridge, Strawberry Plains, Rock Face, Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Lost Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, Nickajac Creek, Decatur, Chattahoochee River, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Stone Mountain, Allatoona, Duck River, Franklin, Nashville, Ft. Donelson, Town Creek and Ralleigh. This is without question one of the best records of service that can be presented by any member of the G. A. R. of this day. He passed through all these battles without a scratch and was honorably discharged at Jonesboro, North Carolina, June 17, 1865. All honor to the boys in blue who risked their lives for the constitution! On his return to civil life he resumed his place at

the plow, which instrument he had left in the furrow when he took up the musket.

Joseph P. Redfern was born in Wood county, Ohio, November 30, 1843. He is the son of Joseph and Ann (Phillips) Redfern, the former having been born in Meeker, Yorkshire, England, February, 14, 1812, being one of a family of six children, three of whom are still living. Joseph Redfern, Sr., is at the present time in his ninety-first year, Mrs. Goldsboro, a sister, is eighty-nine years of age, and Mrs. Levit is eighty-two. Joseph Redfern, when a young man of eighteen years, emigrated to America where he first located in Lorain county, Ohio, and afterwards in Hancock county, and where he has resided for a number of years. He was united in marriage to Miss Ann Phillips on the 8th of January, 1835. They resided in Bloomdale until 1837, after which they removed to Hancock county, in Cass township. To the marriage there were twelve children born, Henry, Frances, Peter, W. H., Matilda, J. P., J. R., J. O., Roda S., deceased, Margaret R., C. F., and E. T. The mother of this large family died while her son Joseph was at the front during the Civil war, the date being February 17, 1864. Mr. Redfern's father is a remarkable man for his age. His faculties are unimpaired and his memory is as good as when he was forty. He is revered by all as one of the living members of that noble band of pioneers which made Hancock county in its institutions and agricultural holdings one of the very best of the great state of Ohio. During all these years he has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has taken delight in entertaining the weary itinerant preacher. He has served his township in several offices, and in later years has been a sympathizer with Republican principles. His life has been a successful one, both temporally and spiritually. In his home he is hospitable and sociable, traits which have made for him a host of friends. His accumulation of real estate amounted to two hundred and forty acres in Hancock county, and seventy acres in Wood county. All this was made by hard, earnest and honest toil.

Joseph P. Redfern, the gentleman whose name honors this sketch, was born in Wood county, November 30, 1843. He was reared and educated in the common schools, and finished his literary education at the Fostoria high school. His life was without special event up to the time of the war, and after the war he set up an establishment of his own and has since been engaged as a successful and prominent agriculturist. He bought his present farm of eighty acres in 1869, to which he has added forty more. Mr. Redfern has been twice joined in marriage, his first wife having been Miss F. J. Callahan, whom he married in 1868. She became the mother of five children, Luticia,

deceased, Nellie, Jennie, Arthur and an unnamed infant deceased. Mrs. F. J. Redfern died on the 2d of August, 1897. She was a native of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, born there November 13, 1848. Mr. Redfern subsequently called to preside over his home Mrs. Hallie Poe, the date of their marriage being April 12, 1899. This lady is a native of Portage township, Wood county, where she was born February 4, 1852. Her maiden name was Prescott, her father, Elisha Prescott, having been a gallant soldier in the Union army. He was a member of the One Hundredth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served his country gallantly until 1864, when he was sacrificed to that horrible juggernaut car, the abominable southern prison. He was captured in battle and spent a number of months at the noted Libby prison, after which he was paroled, but such had been his experience in the prison from lack of food his constitution broke down and he died as a result.

Joseph P. Redfern is a gentleman of considerable prominence in his community, where he has been honored with the various offices in his township. He has always been exceedingly solicitous of the educational interests of his district, and has served as clerk of the school board for a period of eleven years. He was trustee of the township for two years and justice of the peace for eight years. He is an honored member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and of Uric Post, G. A. R., No. 110. Of this post he has been commander, and has acted as installing officer quite frequently.

Thus ends the record of one of Hancock county's most honored families, and we present it to our readers with full confidence that it will meet with the approbation of all.

G. W. ERNEST.

Among the German element which is so honorably associated with the history of Hancock county, none are more worthy of mention than the gentleman whose name we here present. He comes of one of the early pioneer families, and is himself a man of high repute in the community.

Jacob Ernest was the first of the family to remove to Hancock county, the date being 1836. He had been a resident of Perry county, Pennsylvania, where he was born. In that county he was married to Mary Moose. When he came to Hancock county he purchased eighty acres of land, to which he subsequently added forty-five. He proceeded to clear and improve this land, and such was his industry and the good business judgment which he displayed in business life, that he was able to accumulate a competence before his death.

He was a good practical farmer in his day, and was an extensive raiser of fine stock. Politically he believed in the principles of government as taught by Jefferson, and served his township as trustee at frequent intervals. In matters of religion he favored and was a prominent member of the German Lutheran church. The family which he reared consisted of nine children, three of whom are living at the present time, G. W. Ernest, the subject of this sketch; Charles and E. J. The father of this family died in 1885, and his wife in 1876.

Mr. G. W. Ernest was born September 7, 1840, in Washington township, where he was reared. His early education was acquird in the schools of his native township. Like his father before him, he chose farming as an occupation, and such was his training and his own industry that he is looked upon as one of the leading farmers of his county. He and his brother Charles operate a farm of one hundred and fifteen acres jointly, besides a tract of one hundred and sixty acres which they own in Wood county. Mr. G. W. Ernest has never married. Charles, the other brother, was born in 1859, and married Miss Ida Kelley. The Ernests are of German descent as is also the Moose family. They were good citizens in the early days, and their sons continue to sustain the reputation which they enjoyed for probity and upright conduct. They enjoy the confidence and esteem of their fellow citizens in a high degree.

FRANK A. GRIFFIN.

Frank A. Griffin, who is engaged in the undertaking business in McComb, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, on the 8th of September, 1860. The Griffin family is from Vermont. The father of our subject was the Rev. Spencer A. Griffin, a minister of the Disciples church. He married Margery Johnston. Spencer A. Griffin's mother bore the maiden name of Alden and was a descendant in the seventh generation in direct line from John Alden, of Mayflower fame.

Because his father's pastoral work called him to various places Frank A. Griffin was reared at different towns in Ohio and acquired most of his education in Fostoria from the age of sixteen years. In early manhood he engaged in teaching in the country schools of Hancock county for about twelve years and in 1880 he came to McComb. In 1884 he established himself in the undertaking business, succeeding his father to the ownership of their undertaking parlors upon the latter's death, in June, 1900. He is prepared to do satisfactory work in his line and receives a liberal patronage from those in need of his services. He is also engaged in the insurance business, is a notary public and gives attention to writing wills and settling of estates.

In the year 1891, in Steubenville, Ohio, Mr. Griffin was united in marriage to Miss Hettie Holroyd, and unto them have been born five children, as follows: S. Alden, John Holroyd, Margery, George A., and Ralph N. The parents hold membership in the Disciples church, in which Mr. Griffin is serving as an elder and in the work of the church he takes an active interest and contributes liberally to its support. He is quite prominent in political circles as a supporter of the Republican party, has served as mayor of McComb, and for three years was justice of the peace of Pleasant township, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial. He was also a member of the McComb board of education, acting in that capacity for three years and serving as its clerk. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and his genial nature makes him popular in fraternal and other circles, where his worth is also recognized.

CHARLES EDWARD WATSON.

The gentleman above mentioned, ex-mayor of Findlay, achieved this distinction after a twelve years' residence, the preferment having been preceded by membership in the city council for two terms. Aside from his official tenures his business connections have been with the mercantile interests, but in both lines he has exhibited those qualities which usually attract attention and insure success. His family is of English origin and was founded in America by his grandfather, Joshua Watson, who came to the United States in the early part of the nineteenth century and died while a resident of Michigan. The latter's son, Samuel G. Watson, was born in New York state, in 1830, came to Huron county, Ohio, in 1850, and was married four years later to Abigail Burgess, by whom he had six children, the five survivors being: Alice A., wife of Wesley Griffith, Charles E., Egbert N., C. Albert and Wilbur L. G.

Charles Edward Watson, second of the surviving children, was born on his father's farm in Huron county, Ohio, July 12, 1858, and remained at home obtaining his education until he reached manhood. Leaving school after the completion of his twenty-first year he went to Lincoln, Kansas, and secured employment in a drug store as clerk, which posititon he held a year, after which he opened a drug store at Dansburg, Michigan. His establishment being shortly after destroyed by fire, he returned to his Ohio home and spent a short time on the farm. In February, 1888, he came to Findlay and was engaged as clerk in various grocery stores for several years. In 1897 he was eletced to the city council as representative of the Eighth ward and was

re-elected to the same position two years later. His resignation from the council was necessitated by his acceptance of the mayoralty, to which office he had been elected in 1900 on the Republican ticket. This closes his political career up to date, but the friends and admirers of ex-Mayor Watson predict that still further honors await him at the hands of his constituents.

In 1880 Mr. Watson was married, at Greenwich, Ohio, to Miss Minnie J., daughter of John Crouse, and has two children: Veva and Kenneth. The religious affiliations of the family are with the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Watson's fraternal connections are with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is now district deputy of the territory embraced in the Fourth and Eighth Congressional districts.

ALLFREE H. RIAL.

Bravely meeting the duties of life as they arise, this representative of the farming interests of Hancock county has been devoting his time to stock-raising and general farming on an excellent tract of eighty acres in Cass township. Mr. Rial's birth occurred in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1821, in which place he passed the period of boyhood and youth. He has never known anything but agriculture, a fact which no doubt has added its influence in bringing him to his present position as one of the leading farmers of one of the leading counties of one of the leading states in the Union. He has been a resident of Hancock county since the first of April, 1864, in which year he purchased his present farm. At that time it was but partially under cultivation, but he has brought it to such fine condition by the power of axe and plow and good management that it presents as fine an appearance as any farm in Cass township. It is in the oil belt of Hancock county and has upon it three producing wells, one of which has been especially prolific, having at one time emitted two hundred barrels of oil per day. At latest accounts another well was being drilled on this farm. In 1882 Mr. Rial constructed his modern home, which adds greatly to the appearance of his farm. December 10, 1851, he celebrated his marriage with Mary E., daughter of Robert and Nancy A. Greer. While there was no issue by this union, they were both so fond of children that no less than five fatherless little ones were reared under their roof, a fact which is eloquent of their kindness of heart. Mrs. Mary E. Rial is a woman of beautiful character, and a lady who is loved and honored in all this section. She was born in Cecil township, Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Rial have passed a long

Mary Isabella Rial

Allfree Harvey Rial

and happy married existence and on December 10, 1901, amid the heartfelt congratulations of a gathered host of friends at their home, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. Mr. Rial has always been deeply concerned in the advancement and progress of his section of the county. He has been active in the public life of the community, serving as supervisor for the township, being a director on the school board at frequent intervals, and serving as juror about seven times at intervals. He has been for thirty-five years a member of the Lutheran church, in which he served as elder and deacon.

Mr. Rial's parents were Daniel and Susanna (Allfree) Rial, the former born in New Jersey and the latter a native of Delaware. They were prosperous farmers in the Keystone state. On the paternal side Mr. Rial is of English extraction, while the Allfrees are of German stock and the Greer branch of the family introduces Irish blood. Mr. Rial is a practical farmer, a good neighbor, a loyal citizen who believes in the principles of honest dealings between man and man. He believes in and carries out the principles of the Golden Rule, and he and his good wife are passing the declining years of their long and useful careers amidst the love and respect of friends and neighbors.

GEORGE NELSON.

George Nelson, a prominent farmer residing in Cass township, Hancock county, Ohio, owns one of the farms which are doubly remunerative, being composed of fertile soil ready to yield abundantly to cultivation, and also lying in the oil belt, and having four fine wells located upon it.

The birth of Mr. Nelson was in Trumbull county, Ohio, on March 12, 1845, and he was two years of age when his parents, Thomas and Mary Nelson, settled on a farm of eighty acres in Cass township, Hancock county. Thomas Nelson was born in 1808, in Pennsylvania. By trade he was a shoemaker, but was also an excellent business man and a capable farmer, as prior to his death, in 1877, he had accumulated a property comprising over three hundred and fifty acres of good farming land. His industry was notable, his life was that of a quiet, God-fearing man, one who was always ready to kindly assist a neighbor or do a charitable deed. He was twice married and had nine children born to him, those of his first marriage being: Cornelia, Calvin, John, Robert, George and James. Daniel F. was of the second marriage. John and Robert served their country as privates in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Robert dying before his term expired, and John being honorably discharged at the end of the war.

George Nelson was given the advantages of the district school, where he secured as good an education as could be obtained in the place. January 21, 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah, the daughter of George Stough, who was born January 21, 1850, and died December 9, 1876. The children of this union were: John E., born December 23, 1868; Ballard, born April 9, 1871; Porter, born January 18, 1873; and Carlton, deceased, born September 28, 1875. On March 10, 1881, our subject was married to Miss Faith Fisher, and the children born to this union were the following: Mertie, born December 24, 1881; Robert Z., born January 26, 1884; Howard T., born June 20, 1886; and Clyde F., born February 28, 1890.

The first purchase of land made by our subject was in 1878, when he became the owner of a part of his father's land, his original eighty acres being gradually increased until it has reached its present large amount. Mr. Nelson is a practical farmer and understands every detail of agricultural work. His methods have brought him great success and he is one of the substantial men of the township. Like all the members of his family, Mr. Nelson is a Democrat. His farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, and he does a general farming business.

THOMAS STACY.

Thomas Stacy, who is one of the leading farmers of Cass township, Hancock county, Ohio, owns a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres, which he devotes to general farming. His birth took place in Mahoning county, Ohio, on July 12, 1833, and he is a son of Joseph and Jane Stacy, both of whom were natives of Mahoning county.

The parents of our subject located in Hancock county in 1852, on the farm which is now the property of their son Thomas. At that time the farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres, twenty of which had been cleared. The remainder came under improvement and cultivation during his lifetime. By trade Joseph Stacy was a stone-mason and brick-layer and he erected the present very substantial buildings. He was also a practical farmer and took a deep interest in public matters, holding a number of the township offices at various times. His political affiliation was with the Republican party, while in religious faith he was an Adventist. His wife died December 24, 1879, following his own decease.

Thomas Stacy secured his education in the common schools and has followed farming all his life. He is the only survivor of a family of five children born to his parents. In 1855 Mr. Stacy came to this county and

purchased one hundred and ten acres of land. Two years later, in 1857, he married Miss Nellie Duncan, who was born in 1837, in Mahoning county, Ohio, and a family of nine children was born to this union, namely: Cyrus; Matilda; Julia; Fitch; Lettie and Lottie, twins; Eva; Turhan; and Alta, deceased. Mr. Stacy is a stanch Republican and a loyal citizen. He belongs to no church, but he leads an exemplary life, and puts into practice what many others preach; and has a wide acquaintance and many attached friends. He still conducts his farm of one hundred and eighty acres, doing a general line of farming. He owns in connection with his one hundred and eighty acres, a farm of fifty acres, in section 27, forty acres in section 28, and twenty acres in section 27, making in all two hundred and ninety acres, three oil wells and one gas well on this tract of land.

CHARLES HENRY BIGELOW.

Born on a farm now included in the corporate limits of Findlay and resident here all his life, the subject of this sketch has pursued the "even tenor of his way" unobtrusively, fulfilling without ostentation all those duties and meeting all the obligations required of a good citizen. He has devoted all his time to the peaceful pursuits of farming, his only ambition being a desire to be considered a worthy member of that class whose ingenuity and enterprise have placed Ohio among the first of American states in all that relates to advanced agriculture. Mr. Bigelow is descended, both on the side of father and mother, from an ancestry that takes us back to the earliest history of America, and to a period very remote in the chronicles of England. The genealogy runs to 1243. Henry Bigelow, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Colchester, Connecticut, February 20, 1778, and became a man of distinction in New England. He attended Yale College, was graduated there in 1802, subsequently achieved fame as a Congregational minister, and died at Middletown Springs, Vermont, June 25, 1832. His son, Philip D. Bigelow, was born at Middletown Springs, Vermont, December 1, 1812, came to Ohio in early manhood and settled in Hancock county in 1841. He engaged in merchandising at Findlay, which he followed until 1853, when he purchased a farm near the city and lived there until his death, which occurred August 13, 1868. During his residence in Ohio he acquired a position of standing and influence, serving on the State Board of Equalization in 1859-60, and for a long period as justice of the peace in Fairfield county. July 10, 1839, he was appointed by General Wilson Shannon as major of the Ohio Militia, and in the discharge of this, as of all other trusts conferred

upon him, showed himself to be a man of energy and good business qualifications. May 5, 1840, he was married in Erie county to Harriet Hine Frisbie, daughter of Calvin Frisbie, and the three survivors of their five children are Frank F., Charles H. and Ella J., the latter now the wife of George L. Cusac, of Findlay.

Charles Henry Bigelow, second in age of his father's living children, was born June 5, 1854, on the farm where he now resides, in the present corporate limits of Findlay, Ohio. He grew up on this place and nearness to town gave him the benefits of good schools, of which he availed himself to acquire a fair education in youth. After leaving college, Mr. Bigelow returned to his farm, the cultivation and care of which has furnished his continuous occupation from that time up to the present. He has made a success of his business and the appearance of his place indicates that he is a painstaking as well as an industrious husbandman. October 15, 1879, Mr. Bigelow was united in marriage with Miss May, daughter of H. M. Vance, member of a substantial family at Findlay. Bernard Barton Bigelow, whose birth occurred on the 5th of August, 1882, is the only child of this union. Mr. Bigelow is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and politically in accord with the principles set forth in the platform of the Republican party.

JOHN PARKER.

We must turn to the state of Virginia in tracing the genealogy of Mr. Parker, who has passed his entire life in Findlay, Ohio, where he has been prominent in political and civic affairs and in connection with industrial enterprises of importance. Records extant show that the Parker family has long been identified with the annals of American history. Joseph Parker, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Virginia, and died in Ohio at the age of sixty years. His son Jonathan was likewise born in the Old Dominion, in 1808, and was reared and educated in Ohio, learning the trade of a carpenter. He came to Findlay, Ohio, in 1831, thus becoming one of the pioneers of Hancock county, and he built and operated, in company with William Taylor and A. Daughenbaugh, the first steam sawmill in this county. He continued to make Findlay his home until his death, which occurred in the year 1879, and his life was one of activity and honor, gaining to him uniform confidence and esteem in the community, while he was also known as an able and progressive business man.

John Parker, the immediate subject of this review, was born in Findlay, on the 31st of January, 1842, and here he has ever maintained his home, hav-

ing received his educational discipline in the public schools and having early become identified with business enterprises. In 1868, under the firm name of J. Parker & Company, he became associated with his father and brother in the flouring and planing-mill business, and continued to be actively identified with the same until 1886, after which he turned his attention to the real-estate business, in which he continued until 1894. In that year he was elected to the office of county treasurer, being chosen as his own successor in 1896, and thus serving continuously for four years, giving an acceptable administration of the fiscal affairs of the county. Since his retirement from office Mr. Parker has not been actively concerned in any business, though he is associated with his brother in the lumber business, under the firm name of Parker Brothers. In politics he is a stanch supporter of the Republican party and its principles, while fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order.

FREDERICK J. BICKELHAUPT.

It is a fact to which due recognition is not always accorded that the German element of our national commonwealth has been a very important one in advancing the material interests of the nation, but on investigation it will be found that a large percentage of the successful business men are of German birth or lineage. Mr. Bickelhaupt is a representative of the fatherland and was long one of the leading and enterprising merchants of Findlay, but now after a useful and beneficent career he is living retired at his pleasant home in this city, surrounded by the comforts that earnest labor has brought to him.

Frederick J. Bickelhaupt was born near the river Rhine, in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, in 1843, his father being John Bickelhaupt, who was born in the fatherland in 1821, and the latter died in Findlay, Ohio, in 1896. In 1851 the family bade adieu to their old home in Germany and crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating first in New York city, and a year later came to Findlay, where the son, Frederick J., has ever since made his home. During his youth he received but limited educational advantages, but by reading and observation he has continually broadened his mind and he is now a well informed man. During the period of the Civil war he nobly responded to the call of his adopted country, and in October, 1862, at Findlay, he enlisted as a private in Company G, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for four months, while for the following three months he was confined in a hospital, and on the expiration of that

period he received an honorable discharge. Returning to his home in Findlay, he embarked in the grocery and produce business in this city in partnership with his father, which relationship was continued until 1881, when the latter retired from the firm. The business, however, was continued by our subject until 1896, when he, too, put aside the active cares of a business life and has since lived quietly, enjoying the fruits of former toil. His business career was one of activity and industry, and his methods have always been in keeping with the highest principles of fair dealing and with conscientious regard for the rights of others.

Mr. Bickelhaupt has been twice married, his first union occurring in 1870, and in 1894 he was united in marriage to Addie D. Folk, whose father, George Folk, is a resident of Findlay. Her ancestors have resided in the Buckeye state for many years, and in this commonwealth her maternal grandfather, Isaac Pence, was born, and he served as a soldier during the war of 1812. By his ballot Mr. Bickelhaupt supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and in its progress he takes an active and commendable interest. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In the city in which he has so long made his home he stands high in public esteem, and is recognized as one of its most loyal and prominent citizens.

LOUIS LONGBRAKE.

Prominent among the self-made men and successful agriculturists of Jackson township is numbered the subject of this review, who now owns and operates a valuable and well improved farm of eighty acres. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 18th of July, 1843, and in the fall of 1844 was brought to Hancock county by his parents, Simon and Caroline (Hizey) Longbrake, who were born, reared and married in Fairfield county. The family is of Holland descent. On coming to Hancock county they located in the woods at Union Center, Union township, where the father of our subject engaged in farming until 1864, when he removed to Rawson township and there also owned and operated a farm. He removed to Eagle township in 1868 and while living there he and his wife parted, after thirty-five years spent together. A year and a half later he was again married and subsequently made his home in Rawson and Mount Cory. He died at Bluffton in 1894, at the age of seventy-five years. He had two brothers living in this county, namely: Emanuel and Perry. The latter, who was the last surviving member of the family, resided in Jackson township, and died

in March, 1901. In the family of Simon Longbrake were nine children, namely: Harrison W., a resident of Jackson township; Louis, of this review; Perry E., a resident of Liberty; Mary C., of Findlay; Daniel; Abraham; Thomas; Amanda, and Libby.

Louis Longbrake made his home with his parents until twenty-six years of age, though he spent the winter of 1867-8 in the pine woods of Michigan, and then rejoined his father, who in the meantime had removed to Jackson township. He subsequently worked by the month as a farm hand until his marriage, which was celebrated in 1869, Miss Charlotte E. Houck becoming his wife. Her father, Jacob F. Houck, lived at Houckton, being the founder of that place, which was at first called North Liberty. Unto our subject and his wife were born three children: Carrie May, now the wife of William Bower, of Houckton; Minnie Maud, wife of Frank Davis, who is living with her father; and Charlie Dale, who died of tuberculosis in February, 1902, at the age of twenty-one years, five months and fourteen days, after a lingering illness covering several months. His death was deeply mourned, not only by his immediate family, but by many friends as well.

After his marriage Mr. Longbrake spent two years and a half on his present farm, then owned by Mrs. Rachel Plotner, and in 1875 purchased the property, paying thirty-two hundred dollars for eighty acres, but he had to go in debt eighteen hundred dollars. When it came into his possession the farm was all run down, it being only partly cleared and but poorly cultivated, while the buildings were in a dilapidated condition. It took five years to pay off the debt, and at the end of that time Mr. Longbrake began the erection of modern and more substantial buildings. He also laid about twenty-five hundred rods of tiling, and has made many other useful and valuable improvements until to-day he has one of the best and most desirable farms of its size in Hancock county. He is interested in stock raising and feeds most of his crops to his stock.

By his ballot Mr. Longbrake supports the men and measures of the Democracy and has often served as a delegate to county conventions of his party, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He is, however, serving as township trustee, having already filled the office one term of three years, and has entered upon his second term. He is also serving his term as a director of the Mutual Fire & Storm Insurance Company of Jackson, Amanda and Delaware townships, which association has about four hundred and forty thousand dollars at risk at a very low rate, costing about one-fourth as much as ordinary insurance. They insure only country

property, including churches and school houses in the country, and are now doing a large business, the company being thoroughly reliable, and having at its head some of the best and most successful business men of the locality. Mr. Longbrake is a recognized leader in public affairs and is accounted one of the most valued citizens of Jackson township.

JASPER N. HARTMAN.

A hardy representative of the agricultural class of Hancock county, Ohio, is this gentleman, who lives in Marion township, and is well known all over the county for his upright and manly principles. His residence, which is of modern construction and suitable convenience, is situated on the original site of the historic old Marvin Tavern, an institution which saw very much of the early pioneer life of the county. This tavern stood on its original site for a long number of years, and was regarded as one of the institutions of the county, but it became necessary for it to give way for a more modern structure, and in 1891 Mr. Hartman, desiring the site for a building, tore it down and built his present commodious dwelling house. Mr. Hartman is a practical and successful farmer, owning one hundred and thirteen acres of valuable land, on which there is one gas well, supplying his home with light and fuel free, the balance belonging to the Findlay Light & Coke Company. He was born in Wayne county, Ohio, April 24, 1847, and is the son of Samuel and Eva (Whonsetler) Hartman. He received his education in the common schools in his native county, where his uneventful but useful life was spent up to 1870, at which time he removed to Hancock county. During the period of his residence in this county he has been engaged in agricultural enterprises, and has evinced his superiority above the average farmer who knows nothing but to scratch the ground and plant the seed. Mr. Hartman has twice tasted of the sweets of matrimony, first when he was joined to Mary E. Skinner, on the 18th of September, 1866, in his native county, and who bore him seven children, six of these now living, Addie L., Franklin M., Rose J., Mary E., John V., and Zella F., who is a student attending medical college in Cleveland, and an infant deceased. Mrs. Mary E. Hartman, who was a woman of many noble traits of character and an excellent mother to this family of children, died on the 28th of September, 1885, and in 1888, on the 6th of May, Mr. Hartman was again married, this time selecting Emma Smith, a daughter of Isaac and Mary B. Smith, of Hancock county, Ohio. To this second very felicitous and happy union there have been born six children, namely: Ethel M., Edison C., Ro-

setta B., Lella G., Ova F., and an unnamed deceased infant. Mrs. Emma Hartman is a native of Hancock county, and was born in Eagle township on October 30, 1859. She comes of one of the oldest and most respected families in the county, who have been extensive farmers in this section of the country for a long period of years. He operated a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, and in connection with which was the conduct of an extensive sawmill. In his younger days he was a shoemaker by trade, but abandoned that for the more congenial vocation of an agriculturist.

Mr. Hartman, the subject of this immediate review, is a man of excellent character, and with a reputation for honesty and uprightness of purpose among his associates. While not particularly given to taking part in public affairs, he has always done his duty when called upon by his neighbors, and has held the different township offices with a great deal of credit to himself and pride to his constituents. In religious faith he cleaves to the principles promulgated by the old regular Baptists, in which organization he is a prominent worker. His parents were natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio in the very early days, and settled in Wayne county, where they passed their lives and are now deceased.

SULLIVAN POWELL.

Sullivan Powell, a young farmer of Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, is a worthy representative of one of the old pioneer families of Fairfield county. His great-grandparents, Peter and Mary (Alspaugh) Powell, entered that county among its earliest settlers, and later on made a home in Hancock county, in which they spent the remainder of their lives.

Samuel Powell, the grandfather of Sullivan, removed from Fairfield to Hancock county in 1834. He married Sarah Robenault, and together they worked on the farm obtained from the government, acquired a competency and reared a family. Of their children, Andrew, who was born on May 25, 1827, became well known in Hancock county. His first marriage was to Phebe A. Yates, on December 20, 1848, to whom were born six children. Mrs. Phebe Powell died September 15, 1859, and in 1860 Andrew Powell married Caroline Dotson, who died in 1877, and seven children of this union still survive. In 1878 he married Mrs. Sarah A. Longbrake, and two children were born to this union. Mr. Powell is well known as an experienced man in the bee industry, the products of his apiary bringing him large returns.

Sullivan Powell, who was born March 21, 1865, is a son of Andrew and

Caroline (Dotson) Powell, the latter of whom was a native of Pickaway county, Ohio. His education was obtained in the country schools and he grew to manhood on his father's farm, with but one year of absence, during which time he worked for his brother. Thus our subject became a thoroughly practical farmer and his present estate of fifty-seven acres, purchased of his father in 1897, shows the effects of intelligent cultivation of the soil.

On March 4, 1891, our subject was married to Miss Agnes V. Shank, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on May 25, 1866, and is a daughter of Robert and Mary (Porter) Shank. There were four children by this marriage, namely: Marie M., born September 11, 1892; Roy C., born August 21, 1895; Arthur E., born November 15, 1898; and Dwight R., born February 21, 1902. The father of Mrs. Powell was born in Pennsylvania, and her maternal grandfather was a clergyman.

Mr. Powell is a man whose integrity, coupled with excellent business ability, has given him success. He is known as a good neighbor, a kind father and devoted husband, in every way fulfilling the duties of a first-class citizen.

W. H. ADELSPERGER.

It gives the publishers of this volume pleasure to do honor to the old soldier element of the county. In the past it has been the custom to give recognition only to those who were high in office and took a prominent part in the great struggle for the maintenance of the constitution. We believe, however, that no man who unselfishly gave his services to his country during the dark days of the Civil war should be slighted in written history if it is possible to give him mention. We are therefore glad to present to our readers the name of one of this honored element. Mr. Adelsperger is at the present time a prominent agriculturist residing in Big Lick township, where he owns and operates a large tract of four hundred and forty acres of land. He is extensively engaged in stock-raising, and is looked upon as one of the best farmers in the county. This gentleman was born in Seneca county in June of 1842. His father was John Adelsperger, and his mother Lucinda Ricketts. The father was a native of Maryland, while the mother was born in Seneca county. Their marriage occurred in Seneca county in 1818. Our subject's grandfather, Jacob by name, is noted as having been a member of that gallant army which repelled British invasion in the war of 1812, and whose martial blood is still flowing through the veins of his loyal grandson. John Adelsperger was a prosperous farmer while a resident of Seneca county, and passed

there a life of usefulness. He died in the year 1878. Mrs. Adelsperger died in early womanhood, the year being 1846. They reared but three children, John F., Joseph A. and W. H. There was a second marriage, however, which resulted in the birth of twelve children. Eleven of this last number, and one of the first family, are still living. It is remarked that John F., the eldest member of the first family, was also a gallant soldier in the Civil war, a private in Company D, Sixty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. At the battle of Spring Hill, Tennessee, he unfortunately was taken prisoner and being sent to that horror of horrors, Andersonville Prison, was starved there, the date of his death not being known.

W. H. Adelsperger received his early training and education in Seneca county. While still in his "teens" he was apprenticed to the blacksmith trade, and was engaged at that occupation when the rumblings of the Civil war burst forth in a tempest. He was one of the first to go to the front, enlisting in September, 1861, as a private of Company F, Forty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In this organization, which became a part of the Army of the Cumberland, he participated in all the battles which that organization fought. At the bloody battle of Stone River he with others became detached from the main command, and before they could rejoin it the entire body was taken prisoners. He, however, did not remain long in the enemy's lines, having been paroled and afterwards exchanged. At the end of three years he received an honorable discharge, but being of that number who did not know when he had enough he immediately re-enlisted, this time becoming a member of Company D, Sixty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In this organization he engaged in a number of the bloody battles of the last year of the war, being present at Franklin, Nashville and numerous other smaller encounters. In 1865 he was a second time honored with discharge, and returned to civil life with the consciousness of duty well and bravely done. All honor to the boys in blue, who saved the south from rending the constitution. On his return to civil life Mr. Adelsperger turned his attention to the carpenter's trade and continued to work at this until 1873. In the year 1871 he chose for a life companion Miss Sophia, daughter of John and Margaret Kenner. Four children were born to the marriage, Minda A., deceased; John F., deceased; Joseph and Milton L. The mother of these children is a native of Germany, where she was born in 1851. Mr. Adelsperger first began his active farming operations in the year of his marriage, when he purchased in Big Lick township one hundred and twenty-eight acres, to which he added at different times until he is now in possession of one of the largest farms in Hancock county. Mr. Adelsperger

is a man of high repute in his immediate section of the county, and he and his wife are honored for their many good qualities and excellencies of heart and mind.

GRANT THOMAS.

Among what may be called the middle generation of farmers in that part of Hancock county included in Jackson township, perhaps none are better known than Grant Thomas. He is a "native and to the manner born," his father being one of the earliest pioneers of the county, and the family form a part of Hancock's history for more than eighty years. When John S. Thomas, a raw Irish lad just over from the old country, arrived in Hancock county in 1822 there was not much inviting in the prospect. The county was still a wilderness, with all the adjuncts of Indians and beasts of prey that characterized the west at the first advent of the white man. There had been little clearing done as yet, settlers were few and far between, there were no roads worthy of the name and altogether the outlook was not encouraging to the young Irish immigrant. But John Thomas was made of tough fiber and not to be discouraged by any ordinary hardship or mishap. As soon as he grew to manhood he effected an entry of one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he set to work energetically with ax and mattock and in course of time reduced to presentable shape. Of course it took much hard work, all pioneers expected this, but the hope of a smiling home and productive farms in time spurred them on from year to year until their desires were realized. John S. Thomas prospered and eventually added sixty acres to his original purchase of land, all of which by degrees was much improved and brought into a high state of cultivation. Personally he is described as a kind but firm man in his dealings with his family as well as the outside public. His religious affiliations were with the Presbyterian church, and his political predilections with the Republican party. He lived to advanced age, not dying until 1898, when eighty-three years old. In early life he married Elizabeth Camp, who died after leaving him two children. Some years later Caroline Hoage became his second wife and the mother of five additional children, after which she also joined the "innumerable caravan" of the departed. Mr. Thomas' third and last wife was Miss Sarah J. Hall, a lady of Irish nativity, who presented him with two children and survives as his widow, at the age of sixty-four years. Of the nine children by the three marriages the eight survivors are: Sarah J. Gilbert, Marie J. McDowell, Henry A., Phebe Damon, Tillie Phillips, Mary Wisely, John M. and Grant.

It will be seen from the foregoing that Grant Thomas was the youngest of the third set of children, and his birth occurred May 28, 1863. He was reared on his father's farm, trained by that strict disciplinarian to a life of industry and after he reached maturity always followed agricultural pursuits. In 1898, after the death of his father, he effected the purchase of the interest of all the other heirs in the family estate and now owns and resides upon the old homestead. This includes the land originally entered by his father, but the farm now consists of two hundred and twenty acres and is devoted to general agriculture and stock-raising.

In July, 1885, Mr. Thomas was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Greenland, a native of Cincinnati, but they have no children. Mr. Thomas' fraternal connections are confined to membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he takes considerable interest in the affairs of the lodge. As a farmer he has been both prosperous and popular, managing his fine patrimonial estate with discretion and good judgment. Everybody in the township knows Grant Thomas and it could be added with equal truth that everybody likes him.

CLINTON A. CHAMBERS.

Though a young man and only connected with farming matters as a proprietor for three or four years, Clinton A. Chambers gives promise of proving a "worthy descendant of an honored sire," as his father has long been known as one of the model farmers of the county. The founders of the Ohio branch of the family, as stated elsewhere, were early settlers of Crawford county. When Elias and Catherine (Stockman) Chambers, grandparents of our subject, came to that part of Ohio in 1825, they found much of the country still covered by the virgin wilderness. Possessed, however, of the pioneer spirit so characteristic of those days, the young couple faced their task resolutely and set to work to hew out a home from the forest. Securing possession of one hundred and twenty acres of land, all overgrown with the heavy timber and underbrush so characteristic of the Ohio valley, the newcomers with infinite pains cut down and hewed out the necessary lumber for the rude cabin in which subsequently their family of seven children were raised. One of these, the fifth in order of birth, was named David and after he reached maturity he decided to seek his fortune in Hancock county. The first few years were laborious and trying, but finally he got employment with an uncle and eventually became the owner of the latter's farm. On that place, now one of the most highly cultivated in the county, he still resides

and considering his start from nothing, without capital or influence, it is clear that he must have had great energy and force of character to have achieved such a success.

David Chambers married Sarah A. Sargent, daughter of pioneer parents from West Virginia, and by her had the following named children: Nora C., David V., Greeley, Della, Clinton, Cora and Wesley. Clinton Chambers, one of those above mentioned, is the immediate subject of this sketch. He was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, August 28, 1873, and attended the district schools, where he proved an apt scholar and made good use of his time. Between sessions, he got the benefit of farm training by working in the fields and at other details connected with agriculture. Thus equipped, he was ready for business when in 1898 he became owner of the eighty acres of land which he is now cultivating. The soil is rich and productive and Mr. Chambers is making it remunerative by close attention and good management.

In the same year that he took possession of his farm, Mr. Chambers was married to Miss Rose B., daughter of S. B. and Elma Lindower, a popular young lady, whose birth occurred in Big Lick township, November 20, 1878. Mrs. Chambers' grandfather, Charles Lindower, was a native of Germany, who came to this country and settled in Hancock county, about 1836. He reared a family who became useful and loyal citizens and died at the age of seventy years. His son, the father of Mrs. Chambers, lived in this county some years and then removed to Stark county, of which he is still a resident. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have two bright little children: Hazel M., born May 29, 1899; and David F., born October 21, 1901.

FRANK RUSSELL.

This well known and highly respected citizen of Jackson township, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Bloom township, Wood county, on the 1st of September, 1853. His parents, John and Lois (May) Russell, were natives of Ohio and New York, respectively, but were married in Pennsylvania. They made their home in Wood county, this state, where the father entered forty acres of government land and later secured additional land to the amount of two hundred acres, which was all wild and unimproved when it came into his possession, but which he transformed into a good farm. As one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community he was called upon to fill the office of county commissioner and justice of the peace, the duties of

which positions he discharged in a most capable and satisfactory manner. In politics he was first a Democrat, but when the Republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks, and continued one of its stanch supporters throughout the remainder of his life. He died upon his farm December 24, 1884, at the age of seventy-one years, and his widow survived him until January 17, 1890, when she passed away, at the age of seventy. They had eleven children. Caroline died of typhoid fever while young; Benton died in the service during the Rebellion; Mary and John reside at Bloomdale; Homer lives in Hancock county near Bloomdale; Pierce was killed by the shears while shearing sheep; Frank is noticed below; James died of inflammatory rheumatism; Lois died of typhoid fever; Adaline lives at Youngstown, Ohio; Lorinda Jane died of diphtheria while young.

Until twenty-six years of age Frank Russell remained at home giving his father the benefit of his labors upon the farm. He was then married on the 27th of March, 1880, to Miss Catherine Elizabeth Blair, of Wood county, who was born in Maryland, but grew to womanhood in Seneca and Wood counties, Ohio, her family having removed from Maryland during the Civil war. She became self-supporting at the early age of eight years and being a very industrious and capable woman she has been to her husband a faithful companion and helpmate. Unto them have been born nine children, as follows: William L., Charles, Lulu, Orville, Berl, Harry, Nellie, Maud and Dewey J. All are at home with the exception of Orville, who died February 14, 1902, at the age of fourteen years and six months, his death resulting from blood poison contracted from verdigris from a mouth organ. His system had previously been weakened by la grippe and death ensued.

Prior to his marriage Mr. Russell had purchased eighty acres of land from his father and in five years' work had paid five hundred dollars on it, but still owed two hundred dollars at the end of that time. During the winter months he devoted his attention to cutting the timber off the land and converting it into staves. His first team was a yoke of oxen and with teams he performed his farm work for a year after his marriage. When he brought his bride to her new home he had only five acres of his land cleared and the only improvement in the way of buildings was a log house, but he was able to make a living off his land, supplementing his income by the sale of the timber on his land and by working his father's lands. During the eight years he resided upon that farm he cleared twenty-five acres and placed it under cultivation. As it was flat country in the Black Swamp, he had to pay a heavy ditch tax, amounting to over four hundred dollars. Gas and oil were finally discovered in the vicinity of his farm and as property rose

in value he sold out for six thousand dollars and bought his present farm in Jackson township, Hancock county, which is pleasantly located four and a half miles southeast of Findlay. His first purchase consisted of one hundred and one acres, for which he paid seventy dollars per acre, and he has added to this tract until he now has one hundred and thirty-one acres, on which he has made a number of useful and valuable improvements, including the erection of a barn and the remodeling of his residence. He has also laid considerable tiling and now has one of the best farms in Jackson township, whereon he is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of Shropshire sheep. Since attaining his majority he has always affiliated with the Republican party, and has been a delegate to its conventions, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He is one of the representative men of his community and is held in high regard by all who know him.

MARTIN L. WISELEY.

Martin L. Wiseley, who is a representative of the People's Ice and Coal Company, at Findlay, belongs to that class of wide-awake, enterprising business men who have led to the rapid development of Ohio and of all sections of the country. He is yet a young man, but has already attained a success that many an older man might well envy. He was born upon a farm in Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, on the 24th of December, 1871. The Wiseley family is of Scotch descent and was founded in America at an early day. Allen Wiseley, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. William P. Wiseley, the father of our subject, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, and here died in 1875. He was a farmer and stock buyer, carrying on business on an extensive scale and his active operations enabled him to provide well for his family. He left two sons, Martin L., and William P.

Martin L. Wiseley, whose name introduces this record, spent the first four years of his life upon the old farmstead in Marion township and was then left an orphan. After his parents' death he was taken to Leslie, Michigan, where he was reared by his grandparents until he had attained the age of sixteen years, during which time he attended school and acquired a good practical education to fit him for life's duties. After that time he and his brother Will P. returned to the old home farm in Hancock county, Ohio, and the subject of this review devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits until 1901. As the years passed his farm work brought to him good returns. His

MR. AND MRS. MARTIN L. WISELEY.

fields were always under a high state of cultivation and his energy and enterprise were manifest in the neat and comfortable appearance of his place. On his removal to Findlay in the year 1901, he joined his brother in the ice and coal business and they are now dealing in these two commodities which are so essential to the comfort and welfare of man. They have secured a liberal patronage, which is constantly increasing as their honorable business methods and reliability are recognized.

Martin L. Wiseley was married in Findlay in the year 1897 to Miss Clara Adams, a daughter of Philip Adams, and they now have two children: Charles M., and Bernice M. In his political views Mr. Wiseley is a Republican, and for four years, from 1897, he served as trustee of his native township. Much of his life has been passed in Hancock county and he is widely known among its citizens as a young man of excellent business ability, honorable and straightforward in all his dealings and one who well merits the success which has crowned his efforts.

DAVID T. DAVIS.

David T. Davis, who since June, 1899, has been state inspector of high explosives, is successfully engaged in the oil producing business, at Findlay, Ohio, and is one of the substantial and representative citizens of that place.

The birth of Mr. Davis occurred in 1852, on a farm in Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, and he is a son of William and Margaret (Lafferty) Davis, the former of whom was born in 1810, in Cumberland, Maryland, and died in 1863. He was a very prominent citizen and was notable in being the only Republican who was elected commissioner of Hancock county in many years. For fourteen years he served as justice of the peace, and was esteemed and valued for his many admirable qualities of mind and heart. In 1831 he married Margaret Lafferty, and eleven children were born to them, nine of whom still survive. The father of this family served in the Mexican war as a captain of a company, and his sons displayed a loyal devotion when the country again called for assistance. Of these, William and Isaac O. served during short terms in the Civil war. John W. enlisted in the Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was severely wounded in the hip at Chickamauga and at Stone River was captured and held as a prisoner for five months, enduring at this time the horrors of Andersonville and Libby. He now resides at Findlay, Ohio.

David T. Davis was reared in Hancock county, Ohio, and there acquired his education, and followed agricultural pursuits until he was twenty-two

years old. Then he went to Findlay and became one of the organizers of the wholesale and retail grocery firm of Davis, Detweiler & Company, which business was successfully conducted in this city for a period of eight years. After selling his interest, our subject was engaged in various lines of activity until 1887, when he embarked in the real estate business, in which he is still engaged. In 1888 Mr. Davis became interested in the oil producing business and has been very successful in this line. His reliability as a business man resulted in his appointment in June, 1899, by Governor Bushnell, as state inspector of high explosives, and his careful attention to the duties of this office has been of the greatest value and a protection to lives and property.

In 1877 Mr. Davis was married, at Clyde, Ohio, to Miss Eva K. Barney, who is a daughter of W. Z. Barney, and the three children born to this union are: Donald W., Leila M. and Catherine E. In fraternal association our subject belongs to the order of Knights of Pythias, No. 400, taking an active interest in its work. He is well known in this city and is highly regarded as a just business man and public-spirited citizen.

MILTON A. PILCHER.

Milton A. Pilcher is of English descent. His parents, William and Mary A. (Wingate) Pilcher, are still living. Both are natives of England and both emigrated to America in 1852, William remaining for about one year in the city of New York before trying his fortune in Hancock county. He worked assiduously, acquiring considerable city property and in due time entered into matrimonial relations with the bride of his choice. He was married at Findlay to Mary A. Wingate, a lady of English nativity, and the family remained in Hancock county until 1875. Here six of his nine children were born, of whom eight are still living. Three children were born in Putnam county, whither the family removed in 1875, and where the parents still live.

Milton A. Pilcher was born in Marion township, this county, October 10, 1859, was educated at Findlay and engaged in various employments, finally selecting the occupation of farming. November 3, 1887, he married Lavina J., daughter of Thomas D. and Mary A. Callison, who was born in Blanchard township, October 11, 1869. Her parents had three children, of whom she alone survives. The father, Thomas D. Callison, was born in Indiana December 3, 1832, and died in 1888; the mother, a native of Pennsylvania, was born May 16, 1838, and died May 6, 1901, on the farm that Mr. Pilcher bought in September of the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Pilcher

are the parents of three bright children: Walter H., born July 31, 1888; William T., born March 15, 1891; and Floyd V., born September 16, 1900.

Fraternally Mr. Pilcher is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Though still a comparatively young man, he has established himself firmly and has a bright promise for the future among the successful agriculturists of Hancock county. His one hundred acres in Liberty township attest his ability to cope with the varying situations that present themselves to farmers, and indicate the presence of an industrious and progressive proprietor. In politics Mr. Pilcher is a Democrat.

JACOB BOHN.

Among the young, energetic and successful farmers of Hancock county is the gentleman above named, who operates a farm of one hundred acres in Washington township. The success with which he has been attended so far in life is an earnest of what may be expected in the future of this promising agriculturist. The methods of which he makes use in the culture of his well tilled fields, are those which, backed by sound business judgment in the turning of his crops into currency, are bound to win in the end. Jacob Bohn was born in the county of Seneca, Ohio, in 1865, and there passed the entire period of his youth, removing to Hancock county with his parents in 1884. He received in the ordinary country school an education that is entirely sufficient for his needs in the prosecution of business. When he came to manhood he chose for himself the free and independent life of the farmer, in which calling he can study the great book of nature and see the hand of Deity in every blade and shrub. Like one of old, he thinks God's thoughts after him. He is a consistent and active member and worker in the German Reformed church, in which organization he is serving at the present time as an elder. He was also for a considerable period superintendent of the Sunday-school, and it is remembered that the school under his management increased in number and in the influence exerted on the youth of the community.

In the year 1888 occurred that event in the life of our subject which he regards possibly as the most important of his life, when he was joined in marriage to Miss Anna, daughter of John and Elizabeth Romig. To this felicitous union were born four interesting children, Etho H., Clarence J., Mary E. and Carl E. The mother of this family is a lady of many graces of character, and is a native of the Buckeye state, having been born in Seneca county in 1866. Mr. Bohn has never interested himself very particularly

in political life, but exercises the right of suffrage regularly at each election, supporting the Democratic ticket. He is the son of Jacob and Katherine (Stuckey) Bohn, and as may be suspected from the name, these parents were of German origin, the father having been born in the fatherland in 1835 and the mother in 1830. The father emigrated to this country when a young man of twenty-one, his wife, whom he married in this country, making the voyage across the sea in 1855. He located in Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, near which village he bought a farm of eighty acres, where he lived for some fourteen years. In 1884 he removed to Hancock county, where he purchased the farm now owned by his widow, which contains one hundred acres. Jacob Bohn, Sr., besides being a prominent and successful agriculturist, was a skilled stone mason, as many of the residences of Hancock county give ample evidence. Coupled with the German penchant for hard physical labor, a superior business judgment made him quite successful, and he left at his death a very comfortable competence to his widow and children. He commanded the confidence of the public in a high degree, was a consistent member of the German Reformed church and was honored in that organization with many of its important trusts. His marriage to Katherine Stuckey took place in 1858, in Tiffin, Ohio, and there were six children born to them, two only of whom are now living: Laura, wife of Alvin Romig, who lives in Seneca county, and Jacob, who forms the immediate subject of this review. After a useful and blameless life the father died in 1885, at the age of fifty-two years, but his widow survives.

At the age of thirty-seven it would seem that Mr. Bohn is destined, if one may judge by his past experience, to become one of the most influential citizens of his county. He and his wife are most respected residents of their immediate community, and are held in the very highest esteem by the people of Hancock county.

ROBERT B. MOTHERWELL.

When the above named was suddenly called to his last account, in the summer of 1902, Findlay lost perhaps her most popular and certainly one of her most enterprising citizens. Mr. Motherwell had been identified with the growth and development of the town for fifteen years, coming in the midst of the famous boom, and during his residence acquired a strong hold upon the esteem and even affections of the community. Besides being an energetic man of business he possessed a suavity of manner, cordiality of demeanor and geniality of address that drew to him hosts of friends and admirers and

gave him easy access to the hearts of all. In fact, no other man ever came to Findlay and in so short a time made such a complete conquest of the good will of her people, regardless of clan or class, and his sudden taking off was a cause of such sincere mourning as seldom follows any private citizen to his final resting place. This strong character was of Scottish origin and a son of Alexander and Jane Motherwell, a worthy and industrious couple, who spent their whole lives in the famous little country of the north. Robert B. Motherwell was born near Glasgow, November 5, 1845, and remained in the land of his nativity until eighteen years old. Having learned the trade of heavy blacksmithing he determined to seek his fortune in the new world, and in 1863 found himself on a boat bound for the northeast coast of the United States. The young Scotchman landed at Portland, Maine, and not long afterward obtained employment in the Casco Bay Forge Works, then engaged on contracts for the government. This lasted until 1866, when Mr. Motherwell removed to Pittsburg, where he secured work in the rolling mill of Reese, Graft & Bayers, with whom he remained two years. In 1868 he went to Lancaster, Ohio, and in partnership with his brothers, James and William, established what later became well known as the Motherwell Shovel & Spade Works. In 1881 Mr. Motherwell and his brother James founded at Logan the iron and steel works known by their name.

It was in 1887 that Mr. Motherwell came to Findlay, at the time it was inveloped in the great boom of that period, due to the discovery of gas and oil, and he plunged into its activities with the energy that always characterized his efforts. He immediately became a factor in affairs by purchasing the bottling and ice establishment of E. Bacher, which he conducted jointly for a while and then dropped the ice department, confining himself exclusively to bottling. His business venture proved successful, and it was not long until his manners made him so popular that he was in request as a candidate for various places of responsibility. He was a member of the water works board many years and also served a term or two on the board of election. In politics he was a Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, and so highly esteemed was he by his associates that any honor the party had to confer was at his service. But, though strenuous in the advocacy of his principles, he did not seem to care much for office, preferring to devote his time to business.

Mr. Motherwell was quite prominent in fraternal circles, being especially conspicuous in the Order of Elks. He was a charter member of both the local and grand lodges of that popular fraternity and had passed through all the chairs, including the office of exalted ruler. He was also connected with the Masons and the Pathfinders, and at one time was the supreme officer

of the Findlay Court of Ben Hur. January 18, 1870, Mr. Motherwell was married, at Lancaster, Ohio, to Louise Rich, by whom he had seven children: Harriet M., Alice M., Jeannette F., Lola M., Grace S., Mary L. and Robert R. In the summer of 1897 Mr. Motherwell suffered a paralytic stroke, which proved to be serious in its results and few thought he could recover, but his strong constitution pulled him through and it was hoped he had before him many years of usefulness. Death, however, came very suddenly at an early hour on the morning of Friday, July 12, 1902, as the result of an ailment, the exact nature of which the attending physician was unable to diagnose. The announcement of this sad and unexpected event caused a great shock in Findlay and sincere mourning among all its inhabitants. The Findlay Daily Republican, published on the day of his death, paid the following warm tribute to the memory of the distinguished dead: "The demise of Mr. Motherwell ends the career of one of Findlay's highest prized citizens. It would be a difficult matter to find a man possessing equal popularity. It has been said that he had not an enemy in the world, this desirable state being acquired by his numerous excellent traits of character. Wherever known he was recognized as a man possessing courtesy, affability, good nature and other desirable qualities to a remarkable degree. Mr. Motherwell's memory will be deeply cherished as a man among men."

RUFUS W. BENNETT.

The above named is one of the most successful and progressive agriculturists of Jackson township, within whose borders he has made his home throughout life, his birth occurring there October 28, 1852. His father, Rufus Hiram Bennett, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, December 22, 1801, and was the youngest of seven brothers, whose parents were Rufus and Martha (Bennett) Bennett. The grandfather of our subject was with Washington at the time of Braddock's defeat and hung to General Braddock's horse's tail in order to escape, killing two Indians who followed.

On arriving at man's estate Rufus H. Bennett was married February 15, 1832, at his birthplace, to Miss Henrietta Leader, who was also born there July 25, 1806, a daughter of Christian and Mary Leader. By this union were born the following children: Euphemia, who became the wife of James T. Hoy, a farmer of Amanda township, this county; Sanford L., who died October 17, 1855, at the age of twenty-one years and twenty-one days; William H. Harrison, who enlisted September 1, 1861, in Company F, Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil war and died at the

hospital in Paducah, Kentucky, March 23, 1862, unmarried, at the age of twenty-five years and eight months; Martha, widow of Peter Treece and a resident of Mount Blanchard; Rawson Corwin, a resident of Jackson township; Lydia, wife of Adam Haley, of Findlay; Emily, wife of George W. Foreman, of Portland, Indiana; Mary Ellen, wife of S. M. Miller, of Findlay; and Rufus William.

Rufus H. Bennett, the father of our subject, came to Hancock county, Ohio, in the spring of 1835 and selected his land. He had been keeping a hotel in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, and after disposing of his business there his partner absconded with the results of the sale, so that Mr. Bennett was able to bring all his worldly possessions to Ohio in a one-horse wagon, driving an Indian pony thirty years old. He started west without any special destination, making his way up the Upper Sandusky to Fort Findlay. For some distance he followed a blazed trail through the woods, and cut his own road. In the midst of the forest he settled upon land which he secured, and for one month lived in his covered wagon while he cleared an acre of ground and sowed it to buckwheat. He then erected his cabin, which was his home for twelve years, and was then replaced by a more modern and substantial residence on the road. It was built in 1858 and is still standing, being owned by the heirs of Moses Elsea. It was one of the first frame houses in Jackson township, the lumber being cut in Findlay. Mr. Bennett's original farm is now owned by others. He placed his land under high cultivation and kept adding to it from time to time until he had four hundred acres, but before his death he gave eighty acres to a daughter. His last years were passed upon a farm adjoining the old homestead, which was known as the Leader farm, having been settled by his wife's people. It is still in possession of the family. After coming to Ohio Mr. Bennett engaged in farming and became widely known as a breeder and raiser of fine horses, his stock being considered the choicest of the entire county. At one time he was engaged in buying horses and took quite a number from this state back to Pennsylvania to sell. After a useful and well spent life he died, March 25, 1868, honored and respected by all who knew him, and his estimable wife passed away in April, 1873.

Rufus W. Bennett, youngest of the children of this pioneer couple, passed his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and remained with his father until the latter's death, being the only son left at home. He still owns one hundred and twenty acres of the farm, the balance of the estate being either sold or divided, while this is his share of the property. He has bought more land and now owns three hundred and sixty acres, divided into three

farms, one of which is operated by his son and another by his brother. His home place is the old Jacob Twining homestead, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, which is well improved and under excellent cultivation. Mr. Bennett has cleared about thirty acres and laid considerable tiling, and is now successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, feeding cattle, hogs and sheep of a high grade. He paid sixty-two and a half dollars per acre for his land and it is now quite valuable property.

On the 14th of March, 1878, Mr. Bennett was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Miller, a daughter of William B. and Jane (Martin) Miller, of Marion township, where her birth occurred. She completed her education in the schools of Findlay, and at the age of seventeen began teaching, following that profession quite successfully in Marion, Jackson and Allen townships, this county, up to the time of her marriage, when twenty-four years of age. Her parents were early settlers of Marion township, where they located in 1847, and where her father entered one hundred and sixty acres of land. He is still living, at the age of seventy-seven years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were born eight children who are still living, while one son, Rawson, died in infancy. The surviving members of the family are Lloyd DeWitt, who married Zetta Thompson and operates the old homestead; Noble Garfield, a successful teacher of Hancock county; Edna, who attended both the Blanchard high school and Findlay College, and is a teacher of Van Wert county; Hazel, Mark, Miller, Julia and Ella, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Bennett is a stanch Republican and has been a delegate to the conventions of his party, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. He and his family are active and consistent members of the Salem United Brethren church, in which he is at present serving as trustee and class leader, and he has been a delegate to the general conferences of his church. Upright and honorable in all things, he commands the confidence and respect of those with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

CHRISTIAN OVERHOLT.

It is a pleasing task to touch upon the salient points in the records of a family which has had very much to do with placing Hancock among the very first counties of the state in point of agricultural supremacy. The immediate members of the family of which we shall speak are Sherman and Charles Overholt, giving especial attention also to Christian Overholt, their deceased

Catharine Overholt

Christian Overholt

father. Christian Overholt was a well known citizen of Cass township, who, from common work hand about the farm, had climbed to the top round of the ladder among his fellow citizens and this was done by his own industry and business sagacity. He was born a poor boy in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1827, was early imbued with the idea of the value of money and established a habit of saving which soon placed him in a position to begin the active career for which he is remembered. He purchased a farm and began the battle of life for himself, choosing as a helpmate Catherine Leighty, to whom he was married at the age of twenty-five. The three children by this union, all natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, were: Lizzie, born March 4, 1854; Alsinus, born in 1857; and Ella, born in 1859. The family removed to Hancock county in 1860, where Mr. Overholt purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, upon which there were few improvements besides the large brick residence. During his lifetime he took pride in improving this farm, and before he died it became one of the nicest properties of the kind in Hancock county. The family which he brought to Hancock county, mentioned above, was increased here by the birth of Charles in 1860; Clarence (deceased) in 1862; Frank (deceased) in 1864; Sherman, November 1, 1867; Edgar, in February, 1870; and Bertha (deceased), born in 1872 and died in 1888. As remarked before, Christian Overholt was a hard working man, honest and upright in all his dealings with his fellow men. He frequently responded to the desire of his fellow citizens and administered the different township offices. He was an acceptable member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which organization he was a most liberal supporter, and voted the Republican ticket. His wife passed away in October, 1894, and after surviving her four years, he rejoined her "on the other side," January 9, 1898. In his death Hancock county lost a worthy citizen.

Charles Overholt, second son of Christian, passed his boyhood days on the farm where he has since resided. He is a respected citizen, and for the past six years has been the efficient trustee of the township. He is also prominently identified with the school interests of his district, being now a member of the school board, and having served for a number of years in that body. He takes a great interest in everything that advances the interest of his immediate community. Fraternally, he affiliates with that popular organization, the Knights of Pythias. Ever since the discovery of oil he has been an interested party and is at the present time one of the extensive oil producers of Hancock county, operating nine wells. In 1886 Mr. Overholt was married to Miss Clara, daughter of J. B. and Lizzie Linhart, whose

family will be found mentioned elsewhere in this volume. This lady presented Mr. Overholt with five children: Gail, Virgil, Dean, Zoie and Charles C.

Sherman, another worthy son of Christian Overholt, resides with his brother on the old homestead, where he was born, reared and educated. November 25, 1896, he led to the marriage altar Miss Nettie Berger, a native of Mahoning county, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob and Laura (Reed) Berger. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Overholt have three children: Edna M., born December 3, 1897; Carl S., born September 12, 1900; and Mildred, born March 30, 1902.

It is not a light thing to be the son of a worthy father. There is a responsibility connected with sustaining the reputation of a family already established by previous members that should sober and broaden the character of the later representatives of the name. So it has been in the present case. The brothers herein mentioned have taken up life's duties and are following closely in the footsteps of their revered father. Their word is as good as their bond, and in all of their dealings they are straightforward and honorable, commanding the respect of all with whom they are associated.

JOSEPHUS C. VAN EMAN.

This name has been an honored one in Hancock county for seven decades. The deceased subject of this sketch was the son of one of the old pioneers of Hancock county, Rev. George Van Eman, who, for a long period of years, was a minister in the Presbyterian church and did much pioneer work in the ministry in organizing churches in new places when this county was in its early growth. The result of his preaching can be seen today in the churches of Findlay, Van Buren and other places in and outside the county. His work was done mostly, if not altogether, in the saddle. He was a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, born April 23, 1786. He grew to maturity in that county, and there married, September 3, 1810, Maria Cooper, a native also of the Keystone state, born March 14, 1791. They removed to Blanchard township, in Hancock county, in 1835. They were the parents of six children: Alexander, born August 7, 1812; John S., March 2, 1816; Katherine; September 19, 1818; J. C., June 4, 1821; Rebecca J., September 25, 1823; Sara L., October 20, 1827. All of these are now deceased except the last named. The Rev. George Van Eman was twice married, his second wife being Mrs. Sara S. Flanagan, who was born June 5, 1790, and died June 14, 1871. His first wife died June 26, 1839. After a long and

useful life in the service of his Master, Rev. George Van Eman passed to his reward, the date being March 12, 1877.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, on the date given above. He was fourteen years of age when he came with his father, Rev. George Van Eman, to this county. Here he was reared and educated. He took advantage of his educational privileges to fit himself for the profession of teaching, which he followed in this county for a number of years. In 1852 he became infected with the gold fever, and made the trip to California, in which state he remained for six years. He returned, however, and in 1860 purchased eighty acres of land in Cass township, being almost in its primitive state. To this he subsequently added fifty acres, finishing the number with twenty acres more, making in all one hundred and fifty acres. On this farm there are now thirty producing oil wells. Mr. Van Eman was twice married. His first venture was with Margaret Carmel in 1858, by which union there was no issue. This lady died June 30, 1861, and on April 3, 1862, he married Mary E. Hollingshead, who bore him three children: George F., born August 30, 1863; John L., December 31, 1865, and William E., March 26, 1871. During the entire period of his adult life Josephus Van Eman was a prominent and respected resident of Cass township, and proved himself in all respects worthy of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He was engaged as clerk for his brother in Findlay for a period, and subsequently was a clerk in the auditor's office. He served in his own township as clerk for a period of nine years. He was a devout communicant of the Presbyterian church of Van Buren, in which he served as elder. He voted with the Republican party. He was a thrifty, practical man, whose friends were counted by the score. By his death, which occurred March 17, 1891, at the age of sixty-nine years, the community suffered a severe loss. George F. Van Eman, his eldest son, married Elizabeth Smith, December 4, 1886, and has one child, Charles R. John L. married Martha E. Linhart, whose family is elsewhere mentioned in this volume, and William E. married Ella Gibson, a native of Columbiana county.

WILLIAM C. ALFORD.

Among the stream of emigrants contributed to Ohio during her formative period by the famous Empire state of the Union, none did more in proportion to their means in aiding development and progress than the family which bears the name given at the head of this sketch. Zina and Aurilla (Orton) Alford were originally from York, New Jersey, and Massachu-

setts, respectively, but subsequently lived for twenty years in Steuben county, New York. In 1848 they removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where Mr. Alford became the owner of sixty-five acres of land, to the cultivation of which he devoted the later years of his life. At an earlier period he had learned the tanner's and shoemaker's trades, which constituted his principal occupation for a number of years. Zina Alford was always looked upon as an honest, industrious man, who wronged nobody, attended strictly to his own business and enjoyed general neighborhood esteem. His death occurred in 1882 and it was a general remark by those who attended the obsequies that the community had lost a good citizen. William C. Alford, son of the above mentioned and the subject of this biography, was born in Steuben county, New York, August 18, 1815, and grew up during the residence of his parents in that eastern community. He picked up such learning as could be obtained by irregular attendance at the district schools, but as soon as he arrived at manhood the parental roof was abandoned for a contest with the world on his own account. His first location was in Pennsylvania where he remained one year and then concluded to try his fortunes across the Ohio border. Two years were spent in Franklin county, followed by a residence of eight years in Marion county, and the year 1848 found him in Hancock county, Ohio, which was destined to be his permanent abode and the theater of all his future life's activities. He made a purchase of eighty acres of land in Big Lick township, and the cultivation of this property has ever since absorbed the chief part of his time and energies. At the time he took possession his land was in its virgin condition, not only unimproved, but wild and woody as only Ohio land could be before the white man's ax and saw had made their appearance. But all things yield to labor and persistent determination, and as the years went by another and another of Mr. Alford's acres emerged from their primeval condition until he had a farm that any agriculturist might well be proud of. The beautiful pastures and well tilled fields were ornamented by all the buildings necessary for comfort and utility, to say nothing of a neat residence for the home of the family. Mr. Alford was never much of a politician, nor did he care for office as such, but at the solicitation of his neighbors he consented at different times to serve as township clerk, supervisor and school director. Before coming to Hancock county, Mr. Alford became acquainted with Miss Rosetta Palmer, whose birth occurred in New York in 1826, and to this lady he was married in 1845. This union, which continued in mutual affection and esteem until Mrs. Alford's lamented death in 1892, was productive of eleven children, of whom the following named seven are living: Sarah C., Byron C., Frederick O.,

Aurilla J., E. F., C. A. and Electa. C. A. Alford, the last mentioned son in this list, graduated at Oberlin College, and is now an attorney in Duluth, ranking well at the bar and giving promise of future distinction. Mr. Alford, besides the general popularity secured to him by his genial and affable manners, enjoys the reputation of being one of the most skillful hunters in the state. From early years he was always fond of outdoor sports, especially those connected with gunning, and this taste has not diminished with the passage of time. For forty years he has not failed to take an annual hunt in the nothern part of Michigan, and many are the stories he is able to tell of his adventures in the north woods after big game of all kinds. He has been especially successful in bringing down the fine deer which roam over the forests of the upper peninsula, and one of these noble animals shot by Mr. Alford weighed two hundred and twenty-five pounds. This was an unusually magnificent specimen, but only one of the many obtained by Mr. Alford during his frequent forays into the forest. He loves all kinds of hunting and fishing, and ranks as an expert in many lines, being well known far and near by the sportsmen who frequent the woods in season. While on one of his hunting trips this modern Nimrod met with an adventure which came near proving his last. While crossing a ravine on an elevated log he lost his balance, and fell through, his feet catching and holding him suspended in mid air. For a while death by hanging, with the usual process reversed, seemed imminent, but Mr. Alford managed to untangle himself from this scrape, as he had from many another during his adventurous career.

R. J. KIBLER.

Although a young man and only a member of the Findlay bar about ten years, the gentleman whose life is herein outlined has made a creditable record both as a practitioner and man of affairs. He has been sufficiently successful in practice to steadily increase his patronage and has risen to prominence in politics on the Democratic side, which he espoused at an early age and has always supported zealously. His father, Jacob Kibler, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1831, and has devoted practically all his life to agricultural pursuits. He removed to Hancock county in later years and located on a farm in Eagle township, which afterward continued his place of residence.

On this Eagle township homestead R. J. Kibler was born January 20, 1868, and there he was reared while being educated in the country schools. In 1884 he began teaching school in Hancock county, and continued this occu-

pation during the five succeeding winters, while in summer he took advantage of the vacation season to pursue his own studies. In 1888 he secured a position as instructor in the high school at Ada, Ohio, and discharged the duties of this place until 1890, when he began devoting his time to the study of the law. In December, 1891, he was licensed to practice by the supreme court at Columbus, and shortly thereafter took up his residence at Findlay, since which time he has been one of the busy attorneys at the bar of that city. As previously stated, Mr. Kibler is Democratic in his politics and has always shown a warm interest in its campaigns for supremacy. As one of the recognized leaders of his locality he was appointed state supervisor of elections, and is at present holding that position. In 1896 Mr. Kibler was married to Miss Carrie, daughter of Captain William B. Richards, the ceremony being performed at the residence of the bride's parents at Bluffton, Ohio. Mr. Kibler's only fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias, of which popular order he has long been an enthusiastic member.

HENRY SNYDER.

Henry Snyder, who throughout his active business life has been prominently identified with the farming and stock raising interests of Hancock county, was born on the 12th of August, 1837, in Marion township, his parents being Henry and Magdaline (Sands) Snyder. His father was born in Basil, Switzerland, in 1790, and was reared and educated in his native land, always speaking the German language, although he understood English in later life. It was in 1832 that he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and took up his residence in Fairfield county, Ohio, but the following year settled in Hancock county, entering land in Marion township four miles east of Findlay. He built thereon a cabin and took up his abode there when there was but one family between his home and the river on the east. His place was on the Marion (now the Mount Blanchard) road, but when he located there the road had not been laid out and the early settlers followed the ridges in making a journey. Being in limited circumstances Mr. Snyder had just enough money to enter his land, but was able to make a living off his own farm from the first and at once turned his attention to the clearing and improvement of his land. In those early days there was much sickness, the chills being prevalent among the pioneers, and our subject recalls one time when his sister and a neighbor girl were the only ones in the neighborhood not suffering with that disease. His father cleared one-half of his hundred-acre farm and continued to make his home thereon until called to his final

rest in 1864, at the age of seventy-four years. He supported the Democratic party until 1860, when he became a Republican. Though reared in the German Reformed church he joined the Christian church and adhered to that faith throughout life, attending meetings held in the homes of the pioneers and in school houses, as the church in Amanda township, known as Amanda Chapel, was not erected until after his death, but the old Christian society there has since been disbanded. His wife, who was born in Fairfield county in 1806, of Holland parentage, survived him about twenty years, passing away in 1883 on the old homestead. They were the parents of six children, namely: Mary Magdaline, now the widow of Henry Herring and a resident of Wyandot county, Ohio; Henry, whose name introduces this sketch; Elizabeth, who is now keeping house for our subject; Susan, who died about four years ago at the age of fifty-four years; Anna, who lives on the old homestead; and Daniel, wo now owns the farm on which his entire life has been passed. With the exception of our subject and his eldest sister the children all remained unmarried.

Henry Snyder passed the days of his boyhood and youth upon the old home farm, remaining there until his father's death. At the age of twenty-two years he taught two terms of school in this county, and later taught in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1861-2. He then returned home and taught two more terms in this county. Being of a studious nature, he devoted much of his leisure time to general literature and passed an examination in algebra and history, although these were not among the required studies, in order to obtain a teacher's certificate in Ohio. The year of his father's death he bought a tract of land in Findlay township on Eagle creek, this county, but in the summer of 1867 returned to Illinois and was engaged in farming in Shelby county, that state, for a time. Subsequently he assisted his brother in conducting the home farm and in the meantime made some improvements upon his own land in this county.

His brother being young, Henry Snyder remained at home until his marriage, which was celebrated on the 25th of February, 1869, Miss Matilda Shank, a daughter of Henry Shank of Eagle township, becoming his wife. She was then twenty-seven years of age and had previously been engaged in teaching school in Eagle township. Mr. Snyder had already secured his present tract of land, but as there were no buildings upon the place, he rented a farm in Marion township after his marriage and there he and his wife began their domestic life, though he devoted one-half of his time to the improvement of his own farm. After a happy married life of five years the wife died on the 10th of October, 1874, leaving two children: Willoughby Al-

bert, who is now a horse trainer and track driver of Bowling Green, Wood county, Ohio; and Henry Jason, who has taught four terms of school in Hancock county and is now a student at the Tri-State College at Angola, Indiana. He married Florence Enfield, of Big Lick township, this county, and their son, Henry Ebert, is now living with his grandfather. Since the death of his wife Mr. Snyder's sister Elizabeth has continued to act as his housekeeper and has been a mother to his children, and she certainly deserves great credit for what she has done in their behalf.

In addition to the operation of his own farm Mr. Snyder had charge of his father's old homestead for three years, conducting the business for his brother, who was then in poor health, and for five years he also cultivated a farm in Marion township. He has eighty acres on Lye creek, one-half of which he has cleared and has tiled the principal part of it, much of it being under water at one time. He has erected a good house and barn and made many other improvements which add greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place, so that it now compares favorably with the best farms of the township. In connection with the tilling of the soil he is engaged in the raising sheep and hogs, keeping about five hundred sheep, one hundred of which he usually fattens for market each year. His hogs are of the Poland China breed and have won many prizes at the fairs where they have been exhibited.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Snyder has endorsed the principles of the Republican party and at national elections always supports that ticket, but at local elections where no issue is involved he often votes for the men of the opposing party if he thinks them better qualified for the offices. In 1890 he was elected justice of the peace in a Democratic township, a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens, and he creditably filled that office for one term.

A. B. LATSHAW.

A. B. Latshaw, who is a retired oil producer and an extensive farmer and stockraiser of Hancock county, operates a farm of about two hundred acres in Liberty township. His birth took place on March 23, 1852, in Venango county, Pennsylvania, Mr. Latshaw belonging by birth to a state which has contributed largely to the wealth and stability of Ohio.

In early manhood our subject learned the carpenter's trade and later became a resident of McKean county, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged

Mary G. Latsham

A. B. Galshaw

in the building of pump stations and oil derricks. His skill as a mechanic made his services valuable as foreman of the workmen engaged in that locality, and he remained there for eight years. In 1885 he came to Hancock county, Ohio, and for some time followed the same business, but later became an oil producer himself. After looking closely into the merits of various portions of the oil producing lands, he invested in Virginia in a large tract which had numerous wells in operation upon it. Mr. Latshaw thus displayed business acumen and was very successful, and still further proved his good judgment by selling out his oil interests at the right time, and in 1893 put his money into his fine farm. In 1894 he began the erection of his fine house, completing the same in 1895, with all modern improvements, owning now one of the handsomest homes in this locality.

In 1873 Mr. Latshaw was united in marriage with Miss Mary J., the daughter of Adam and Margaret Swartzlander, who was born on February 3, 1855, in Pennsylvania. Her father was a veteran in the Civil war and met an honored death on the battlefield of Gettysburg. A daughter and a son were born to Mr. and Mrs. Latshaw, namely: Florence L., who is Mrs. Frech and has one child, Harrold A., and Adam R., who married Miss Belle Thompson, and has a daughter, Dorathea M.

Our subject is one of the progressive citizens of Liberty township, and his fellow-citizens' confidence has been shown in his selection to positions of responsibility. For two years he has been the efficient township assessor. Fraternally he is a member of the order of Maccabees.

Mr. Latshaw is a self-made man, beginning at the bottom of the ladder and climbing to his present independent position through his own efforts. He is recognized as a man of sound judgment in business matters and as a useful member of society. He is well and favorably known in agricultural affairs and is prominent in any measures looking to the advancement of the farmer's interests. In politics Mr. Latshaw is a Republican and takes an active interest in the political affairs of his county and state. Mrs. Latshaw is a member of the Church of God.

WILLIAM J. CREIGHTON.

The above named gentleman has long been a familiar feature in the public life of Findlay, owing to his continuous connection for years with its financial institutions and previous incumbency of the county treasurer's office. During his tenure of the various responsible positions entrusted to his care, Mr. Creighton has so discharged their duties and so demeaned himself in

his intercourse with the people as to be regarded as one of the most substantial and reliable of the city's business men. His life story is briefly told and is but the repetition of many similar ones in its main outlines, that of a farmer's boy trained to hard work and the wholesome discipline of the country, afterward utilizing his sturdy virtues to acquire position in the higher walks. Such men are always interesting, as their experiences form a distinct phase of American national life, and it is from such sources that the best blood of the country is recruited.

William J. Creighton was born in Cass township, Hancock county, Ohio, May 29, 1847, and had the usual experience that befalls farm boys. As soon as old enough, of course, he was sent to the neighborhood school, and was expected to "do chores" in the evenings after school hours. When he got to be a boy, he must help with the farm work during vacations, and make himself generally useful in the assistance of his parents. Nor did Mr. Creighton depart from the other immemorial custom of all ambitious rural lads of teaching a term or two as a preparatory course before entering the great world. Accordingly we find Mr. Creighton a pedagogue at the age of seventeen and pursuing this avocation off and on for the next eleven years. At the end of that time he received an offer to enter the office of the treasurer of Hancock county as first deputy and gladly accepted, well knowing that such positions generally lead to better. He remained in the treasurer's office four years, during which time he completely mastered all of its details, and then returned to the farm awhile. But he was not allowed to rusticate long, being called from his retreat by receiving the nomination as candidate of his party for the office of county treasurer. After a spirited campaign, in which he proved himself to be a "good mixer," Mr. Creighton was elected and served his term of two years so satisfactorily that he had little difficulty in obtaining another. Accordingly he was re-elected treasurer of Hancock county and finished his second term without mishap or adverse comment. This was Mr. Creighton's last experience of official life, but since retiring from office he has held other positions of responsibility, with different financial institutions. In 1887 he was offered and accepted the position of assistant cashier in the office of the American National Bank at Findlay, and remained about twelve years with that corporation. January 1, 1901, he was appointed secretary and treasurer of the Commercial Bank and Savings Company, which position he has since retained and filled with his usual skill and ability. Mr. Creighton's only fraternal connections are with the Odd Fellows, and he has served that order as representative to the Grand Encampment on two occasions. Mr. Creighton is a Democrat in politics. He was married September

18, 1873, to Miss Martha Ebersole, a native of Hancock county and a daughter of Henry and Margaret Ebersole, Hancock county pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Creighton have two children: David Maurice, proprietor of the Findlay book bindery, and Jessie Mabel, who graduated from Oberlin College in 1901.

DANIEL N. SCHUBERT.

The influx of German blood into this great republic was of large proportions during the first half of this century. The care which the German government has taken in ameliorating the conditions of its working class, has of late years resulted in checking somewhat this flow of emigration. The Buckeye state was a haven for a large number of this excellent foreign element, and Hancock county is fortunate in having within its bounds many of those who came to the state. They were honest, worthy citizens, exceedingly industrious, and their descendants have inherited their best qualities.

Mr. Daniel N. Schubert is the grandson of John Casper and Christena Schubert, who came from the fatherland in 1832. After a very short residence in Crawford county, Ohio, they settled in Seneca county, where John C. entered eighty acres of land, and which was increased at various times by another one hundred. John C. Schubert is remembered as being an upright man, being a tailor by trade and a good provider; a man who was alive to the best interests of his adopted country. Religiously he and his wife were worthy members of the Lutheran church. His family numbered the following children: Leander, Asmuth, August, Malina, Matilda, Lucinda, Harman and Sarah. Of this number Leander was the father of our subject. He was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1823, and accompanied his parents to America when they crossed the sea. He continued to live at home until he was twenty-seven years of age, having in his early youth learned the carpenter's trade. He was a first-class mechanic, as many of the beautiful homes in Hancock can testify. He was not only a good carpenter, but his farming was of a high order. He was a very careful and methodical man, watching the little things in life, and this habit resulted in the accumulation of a very nice property before his death. He owned four hundred and forty acres of the good land. His career was uneventful, save that he did his duties as a citizen, and reared his family to respect the institutions of his adopted country. He distributed his land to his children, who are now making the very best use of it. His marriage occurred in 1850, his wife's name being Susannah Grove. Their family consisted of John, born June 11, 1852; Harriet, November

14, 1854; Alvin, February 5, 1857; Irene, October 15, 1858; Manassah D., April 21, 1860; Levi C., October 22, 1861; Albert G., April 29, 1864; Daniel N., July 18, 1865. The mother of the family was a native of Highland county, Ohio, where she was born October 17, 1830. Leander and his entire family were workers in the Dunkard church, he having served for a period of forty years as a deacon of that organization. On the 18th of October, 1900, this good man passed to his reward, mourned by his devoted children and a large circle of acquaintances. His wife continues the journey alone.

Mr. Daniel N. Schubert passed his boyhood days quietly in his parents' home, and in the township school acquired his elementary education. He has always confined himself to the life of a farmer. He is now in possession of the old homestead, upon which he lives with his family. His wife was Miss Ermina, the daughter of S. B. and Diana Thomas. Her marriage to Mr. Schubert took place on the 5th of May, 1889. She has presented her husband with Carl C. and Milton V., two strong, manly sons. Her birth occurred in Big Lick township January 10, 1868.

In his day Daniel Schubert is following closely in the steps of his revered father, and is highly esteemed in the community. He and his family continue their interest in the Dunkard organization, and in local life of the community he has served with credit in the office of township trustee. He is a good, substantial citizen, one who is respected and honored by all who are fortunate in having his acquaintance.

HENRY O. PURKEY.

This worthy member of the fraternity of farmers in Hancock county is a resident of Cass township. His father, Jacob, was one of the noble band of pioneers of this county, removing here in 1832 from Pennsylvania, of which state he was a native. He married Agnes Manifold, also a native of Pennsylvania, who became the mother of his ten children, of whom four survive: John, a resident of Bloomdale; Henry O., the subject of this sketch; J. R., also of Bloomdale, and J. A. Jacob Purkey owned two hundred and forty acres of land, which he earned by honest toil. He began life a poor man, but by close application to business and dealing squarely with all men, he soon won the confidence of his fellow citizens, as well as their good will, and accumulated a very fair competence before his death. He was a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church, being prominently identified with its active life as a class leader. Politically he favored the Republican party, and was ever ready to do whatever was in his power to advance its noble prin-

ciples. He passed an existence of a number of years in this county, during which he was held in high esteem, and was mourned by a large circle of friends on his death, March 18, 1866. His wife, Agnes M., outlived him fourteen years.

Henry O. Purkey, second in age of his father's surviving sons, was born in Wood county, Ohio, May 18, 1845, passed his boyhood in the quiet life of the country and received a fairly good education in the district school. Arriving at maturity he chose the vocation which Washington said was one of the noblest that man could engage in, and in this pursuit he has proved eminently successful. His first holding of real estate was purchased in the spring of 1858, consisting of fifty acres, which he held for a considerable period, improved and sold at a good profit. In 1881 he purchased the eighty acres where he now lives, which was increased by forty-seven received by inheritance. In the conduct of this farm he is exceedingly practical, using the latter day methods with success. Mr. Purkey chose as a life companion Miss Martha J. McKey, the marriage occurring October 18, 1867. The lady whom he thus honored was the daughter of Robert and Eliza McKee, and she became the mother of Eliza, born June 8, 1868; John T., May, 1870; William E., July, 1873; Ada S., July, 1876, now deceased; Robert E., October, 1878; and Orlo H., July, 1884. Of this family Eliza married Charles Doering; John T. was married to Emma Markwood; and William E. wedded Eva Stecker. Mrs. Martha J. Purkey is a native of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, where she was born December 31, 1844, and came with her parents to this county in 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Purkey are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Bloomdale, of which organization he has been a member for forty-six years and is now serving as trustee. In politics Mr. Purkey is a Republican, although in local affairs he supports the man rather than the pary. Mr. Purkey is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, universally esteemed among a very large circle of acquaintances.

DR. WILLIAM R. MOFFETT.

This an age of progress, and America is the exponent of the spirit of the age. Perhaps no greater advancement has been made along professional lines than in dentistry. New methods have been introduced, and the profession has largely attained perfection. Fully in touch with the advancement which has been made, Dr. William R. Moffett stands as a leading representative of the dental fraternity in Hancock county, residing and doing business in Arcadia, the town of his birth. Dr. Moffett here first saw the

light on January 3, 1871. He is the son of William and Sarah (Chambers) Moffett, both of whom are natives of the Emerald Isle. The father was born in County Down, July 1, 1837. The parents were married in their native isle and emigrated to this country in 1866, remaining a short time in Philadelphia, after which they removed to Arcadia, where Mr. Moffett engaged in the mercantile business for a short period. He then entered the drug business, which he successfully carried on for a period of twenty years. He was a man of superior intelligence and education, and made a marked impression on those with whom he came in touch. He was a ready writer of both prose and poetry, and an interesting and fluent speaker. He served Arcadia in the capacity of postmaster for a number of years, and served the township in holding with credit some of its offices. In religious faith he was a strict Presbyterian, in which organization he was an elder. His death occurred July 2, 1899, an event which spread gloom over the entire community, for it was the loss of a good citizen. The wife still survives, and is carrying on the drug business left by her husband. Their family consists of five children, namely: George H., William R., David E., Mary and Margaret B. The mother of Dr. Moffett was a sister of Dr. John Chambers, deceased, a noted clergyman of Indianapolis, Indiana. He was also a professor in the Indiana Medical College and a surgeon of note. The Chambers family were of Scotch-English descent.

Dr. Moffett passed the days of his boyhood and youth in the village of his birth, where he received an excellent education, graduating with honor from the high school. In 1893 he was given a license as a practicing dentist, and immediately opened an office at Ottawa, Ohio, where his work proved so satisfactory that his patronage became very extensive. He remained at Ottawa until 1900, at which time he returned to his native place, where he is now practicing. Dr. Moffett uses the very latest methods of dentistry in his office, and his work is done to the entire satisfaction of his numerous and still growing patronage. In connection with his dental practice Dr. Moffett also dips somewhat into agriculture, having purchased a farm of seventy acres near Arcadia. In 1891 Dr. Moffett was united in marriage to Miss Nora Moffitt. Miss Moffitt was the daughter of John J. and Edith Moffitt, and was born in Blanchard township, February 17, 1873. To this felicitous marriage there have been born two lovely daughters, Jessie Aldine, born January 27, 1893, and Edith Pauline, born June 2, 1895.

Dr. and Mrs. Moffett are popular members of society in Hancock county, where their circle of friends is extensive, and the regard in which they are held is uniform.

WILLIAM B. MILLER.

Industry is a leading characteristic of the German people, and this fact probably accounts in a measure at least for the unrelenting activity that has marked the life of William B. Miller and those who went before him. Hard work and rigid economy made of the father a comparatively wealthy man, and despite the heavy expense of raising a large family, Martin Miller was able to give his son William eighty acres as a start in business.

Christopher Miller came to this country from Germany in 1805, settling in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Martin, the son, who was but eight years old when he landed, remained there until 1816, when at the age of nineteen he moved to Fairfield county, this state. Here his son William was born, February 11, 1825, and here the family resided until the death of the parents, Martin dying in 1877, and his wife, who was Catherine Baker, in 1884. She was a native of Sunberry, Pennsylvania, and was seven years younger than her husband, having been born in 1804. They were members of the Reformed church and Mr. Miller was a Republican in politics. They had seventeen children; thirteen grew to maturity, seven are still living, and of this number two reside in this county.

At the age of twenty-two, in 1847, William Miller removed to Hancock county, and three years later added by purchase one hundred acres to the eighty he had received as a gift from his father. Some of this land was not in the best state of cultivation and Mr. Miller set about at once to improve it. He subsequently sold twenty acres to a neighbor.

On March 24, 1845, he was united in marriage to Miss Jane, daughter of William and Susan S. Martin. She bore him thirteen children, of whom eight are living. She was a native of Ohio, born in Fairfield county June 18, 1823, and is now deceased. For his second wife he married Mrs. Helen E. Flack.

Mr. Miller lives very near the southeastern limits of Findlay, on one hundred and sixty acres of valuable farming land, and is very intimately associated with the political and religious life of the town. He is one of the strong men in the Republican party, has held the office of township treasurer and has also been one of the trustees of Marion township. He was justice of the peace for some time and in 1879 was nominated by his party as member of the state legislature. It was in the same year that Governor Foster was defeated by a vote of three hundred and ninety-seven, and Mr. Miller was beaten by a majority of two hundred and ninety-five votes. A comparison of these numbers will indicate the degree of Mr. Miller's popularity. As

superintendent of the Sunday-school and class leader of the United Brethren church, Mr. Miller has put a personality into his work, the influence of which is very wide-reaching in its effects. Mr. Miller and his family belong to this church and in Findlay he is counted as one of this county's most popular, progressive and representative men.

PETER SOLT.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, who has risen above his early surroundings, overcoming the obstacles in his path and reaching an enviable position in business circles. This is a progressive age and he who does not advance is soon left far behind. Mr. Solt, by the improvement of opportunities by which all are surrounded, has steadily and honorably worked his way upward and has attained a fair degree of prosperity.

This well known stock dealer of Eagle township was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 13th of November, 1830, a son of Conrad and Saloma Solt, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. The father was between sixteen and eighteen years of age when he came to this state and the mother was quite young at the time of her removal. Besides his home farm of one hundred and seventy acres of land in Fairfield county, Conrad Solt owned three hundred and twenty acres of land in Hancock county, which he entered from the government and an entire section near Bluffton in Wells county, Indiana, which he also entered. As his children started out in life for themselves he gave to each one hundred and sixty acres of this wild land and he lived to see it all distributed among thm, dying at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years, honored and respected by all who knew him. One son, Cornelius, settled on land in Eagle township, in Hancock county, which was given him by his father and here developed a farm. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry and died in the service when about forty-five years of age. Some of his family still live in this county and his grandson, Sanderson Pifer, now occupies the old homestead. Moses Solt, another son of Conrad, also came to Hancock county and settled on the old John Powell farm in Eagle township, but later removed to a farm near Findlay, Ohio, and from there went to Tennessee. Subsequently he made his home in various states but finally located permanently in Missouri, where he now resides. Melancthon Solt, another son, is now a grain and stock dealer living in Washington county, Kansas, where he is quite extensively engaged in the feeding of stock. The

Peter Dolt

Mrs Henrietta Dolt

father was also interested in the raising of horses, cattle and hogs, and was accounted one of the best and most reliable business men of his community.

Until about nineteen years of age Peter Solt remained under the parental roof, but three years previous to this he began buying and selling stock, and then entered the employ of a drover, driving stock over the mountains to New York City, making two trips, first with two hundred and fifty hogs and two hundred and one head of cattle. On attaining his majority he embarked in the same business on his own account and during the years that have since passed he has given the greater part of his time and attention to that enterprise, having many partners, the old firm of P. Solt & Company being one of the best known in the state.

While visiting Hancock county soon after his marriage Mr. Solt purchased forty acres of land in what is now Eagle township. He had made a bid of seven hundred and fifty dollars for this tract, although he did not really want it, but his offer was accepted. It had been his intention to buy land near Elmira, but on reaching home his father advised him to take the land in Hancock county, and he located thereon August 31, 1853. There was a small cabin on the place but little of the land had been cleared. His capital was exhausted on paying for his property, but he at once set to work to clear the land, devoting his attention to that labor at night, while by day he continued to engage in the stock business. In less than a year, however, he had lost all he had with the exception of a carload of hogs by endorsing another man's note for thirteen hundred dollars, even selling his seed wheat and winter meat to pay his debts. It was also his intention to sell his land, but a neighbor, Amos Swayer, who had induced him to buy the land, let him have the money needed, in fact all that he wanted to borrow, without security. On the completion of the Lake Shore Railroad he began shipping stock over that line and within a year was able to meet all his obligations. He was feeding about two hundred sheep, which were purchased by a couple of stock buyers, a Mr. Grant from New York, and Mr. Fisher from Erie, Pennsylvania, who paid him a good price and also advanced him one thousand dollars with which to buy more. Within a week or two he also made five hundred dollars by buying stock for those gentlemen. He continued in their employ for about a year, during which time he was able to pay off his debts and gain another start in life. For fifteen years thereafter he gave special attention to the sheep business, shipping his stock to New York City and Buffalo, the latter city proving the best market. He did not place his business in the hands of commission merchants but conducted his own sales and his operations extended throughout this state, Indiana and Illinois, where he bought

cattle and hogs on quite an extensive scale. In 1882 he did a business of handling nineteen hundred and fifty hogs and seven hundred and fifty head of cattle, for which he contracted one year ahead. At times he has contracted for hogs before they were born, paying five cents per pound and selling the same for nine and a half cents in Buffalo over a year after the contracts were made. Mr. Solt, with his partner, does an annual business of thirty-five thousand to fifty thousand dollars. For twenty years he has engaged in the feeding of sheep and has also fed hogs largely during the summer months. Almost a half century has passed since he became interested in the stock business and during that time there has been hardly a year in which he did not buy and sell stock in connection with farming. He owns a nice place of eighty acres, on which he has erected a good house and barn, and made many other useful and valuable improvements.

On the 15th of May, 1853, in Fairfield county, Ohio, Mr. Solt was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta Cloud, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Mordecai and Ellen (Jones) Cloud, both of whom spent their last years with our subject and died at his home. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Solt were born the following children: Mary Elizabeth, now the wife of F. B. McClelland of Eagle township; David B., and Clifford W., also residents of Eagle township; Ellen Saloma, wife of S. H. Hoy, of Eagle township; Dora E., wife of Dr. E. B. Harrington, of Findlay, Ohio; Sanderson H., who is unmarried and now operates the home farm; and Fanny Grant, wife of Bruce Keller, of Eagle township. Each one of the children has had a farm given him and to-day all are well-to-do, the sons being first-class business men like their father, who stands as the banker of the family and has worked hard to give his children a good start in life.

Throughout his business career Mr. Solt has met with many reverses, losing in one day sixteen hundred dollars and at another time thirty-two hundred dollars, owing to a decline in the market. He has also lost much by going security for others, but has never allowed himself to become discouraged or disheartened. With indefatigable energy he has worked his way upward, overcoming all the obstacles and difficulties in his path until he is to-day one of the well-to-do and substantial citizens of his community, as well as one of its most honored and highly respected citizens. In his political views he is a Republican, but has never hesitated to vote for a Democrat when he thought the candidate of that party was more fitted for the position than his own. He has been quite a political worker but has never cared for official honors. At one time he was elected sheriff, having been nominated against his desire. In all the relations of life he has been found

true to every trust reposed in him, and he has the respect and confidence of all who know him. It is said, and without any qualification, that the word of Peter Solt has always been and is as good as his bond.

NAPOLEON B. PRESLER.

The above named is the only one of a large family of children who resides in Hancock county, though he has brothers and sisters in other parts of the country. His father was William M. Presler, a Pennsylvanian, who emigrated to Ohio as early as 1835 and located on one hundred and twenty acres of land in Seneca county. Before leaving his native state he had married a widow named Elmina (Boden) Crabill, with whom he resided in Seneca county until 1876, and then removed to Kansas. There he purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land and busied himself in its cultivation until the spring of 1897, when he lost his wife by death and has since lived alone on his farm. When he married Mrs. Crabill she had five children by her first husband, and subsequently became the mother of six additional.

Napoleon B. Presler, one of the sons of his father's second marriage, was born in Big Spring township, Seneca county, Ohio, February 9, 1857, and remained there until he reached his majority. August 18, 1878, he was married, in his native county, to Miss Phebe Ellen Hile, whose parents had settled in Seneca county shortly before his own father's arrival from the east. Adam Hile, father of Mrs. Presler, was born in Germany, in 1804, emigrated to Pennsylvania in early life, married a native of that state and removed to Ohio in 1834. He spent the remainder of his days in Seneca county, his death occurring there in 1885, followed by that of his wife in November of the subsequent year. The Hiles were members of the Lutheran church and had a family of nine children, of whom six are now living, including Mrs. Presler. After his marriage Mr. Presler remained in Seneca county about four years, and in 1882 removed to Putnam county, where he purchased forty acres of land and spent the three following years in its cultivation. In 1885 he came to Hancock county and bought seventy-nine acres of land in Portage township, upon which he settled, and was engaged in farming for the four following years. In 1889 he made his final move to the farm of one hundred and five acres in Amanda township which constitutes his present homestead. This land is fertile, and under Mr. Presler's good management has been made productive and profitable. He raises all the cereal crops adapted to the climate, and the usual amount and variety of stock customary in that locality. Mr. Presler has greatly improved his place since taking possession,

and among the substantial additions made by him was a fine barn erected in 1892. As a citizen and neighbor Mr. Presler stands well, and has several times been called upon to fill township offices. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, of which he has been a stanch supporter from earliest manhood. Mr. and Mrs. Presler have six children: Schuyler C., Orpha K., Olivia O., Florence B., Edna G. and James L.

JEROME M. MARTIN.

Among the busiest, most energetic and enterprising men of McComb is the subject of this review, the senior member of the hardware firm of Martin & Weinland. He was born at Commercial Point, Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1854, and when only a year and a half old was deprived by death of his mother, and at the age of six years was left an orphan by his father's death.

Mr. Martin remained in the place of his nativity until twenty-one years of age and during that time acquired a good common-school education, well fitting him for the practical and responsible duties of life. In the winter months he attended school and in the summer seasons worked on a farm, thus providing for his own support from an early age. In the year 1875, with the capital which he had acquired through his own exertions, he embarked in the grocery business at Napoleon, Ohio, but after a year spent at that place he sold his store and removed to Decatur, Illinois, where he opened a restaurant. He conducted the new enterprise for a year and then returned to Napoleon, where he followed the trade of carpentering, which he learned there, also executing contracts for work of that nature. He remained in Napoleon until 1888, when he came to McComb and established his hardware store, having one of the largest and best stocked stores in this line of commercial activity in northern Ohio. The firm carries an extensive stock in order to meet the constantly growing demands of its trade, and the business is continually increasing, both in volume and importance.

In 1877, in Napoleon, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Clara J. Weaver, and they now have a pleasant home and many friends in McComb. Mr. Martin is a Democrat in his political views and has taken an active part in political affairs, serving as a member of the city council of Napoleon. He was also chief of the fire department, acting in that capacity for a number of years in a most capable manner. For six years, from 1893 until 1899, he served as treasurer of McComb, and from the latter date until the present time he has been the treasurer of Pleasant township, Hancock

county. In 1888 he was a member of the city council here, and is an officer whose political record is above reproach, for he is true to every trust reposed in him and is loyal and patriotic in the discharge of his duties. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is an exemplary representative of the organization. His attention, however, is closely given to his business interests, which are now of an extensive character, and in the control of which he is meeting with very desirable success.

M. M. MOYER.

Edwin R. Moyer, the son of poor Pennsylvania parents, was inured to hardships in youth, and as he grew up learned the trade of shoemaking, which he pursued some years as a means of livelihood. After his marriage to Lucinda Grinawalt he obtained possession of a small piece of land, whose cultivation, in connection with his work on the bench, enabled him with difficulty to support his growing family. Thinking to better his fortunes by a movement to the west, he came about 1866 to Hancock county, where he bought eighty acres of land in Union township. This place, however, being found unsuitable on account of size and other reasons, he disposed of it to buy a tract double its size, on which he established his family as comfortably as possible. From that time on he abandoned his shoemaker's tools, and by devoting his whole attention to the farm obtained a success beyond his most sanguine expectations. In fact the quondam shoemaker proved to be an excellent agriculturist and soon became noted for the abundance as well as quality of his crops, while his stock was among the finest and fattest in the land. As Edwin's circumstances improved his family kept pace with the increased income, and in time Mr. and Mrs. Moyer found their household enlivened by the presence of twelve lusty children. The boys as they grew up all proved to be sober and industrious, and were of great assistance to their father in carrying on his farming operations. In time they all married and without exception have done well, being found in honorable positions in the various walks of life and respected as useful citizens. The father, after doing his full duty during a long and blameless life, passed away in 1888, and four years later his good wife, Lucinda, was laid by his side in the family burying ground.

M. M. Moyer, one of the sons of this worthy couple, was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, in July, 1862, and hence was only about four years old when his parents settled in Hancock county. He had no aspirations aside from farming, and having learned the details of this business under his fa-

ther's tutelage adopted it as his regular calling as soon as he approached manhood. When his mother died, in 1890, he bought the interest of the other heirs in half of the homestead, and now owns eighty acres of his father's original purchase. This tract he has been cultivating for twelve years with such skill and industry as to be ranked as one of the most promising of the younger generation of farmers, while his genial character and kind disposition have gained him the good will of all his neighbors. He attends closely to business, manages his farm with judgment and his operations have yielded him a steady and increasing income. In the same year that he effected the purchase of his place he led to the altar Miss Alice, the accomplished daughter of Dr. F. C. Steingraver, and this union, which proved in every way happy and congenial, resulted in the birth of three bright children, whose names are Frederick E., Helen M. and Myron D. Mr. and Mrs. Moyer are members of the Methodist Protestant church, in which he holds the position of trustee and steward. The success of Mr. Moyer, taken in connection with the standing obtained by his numerous brothers and sisters, shows that the emigration of the Pennsylvania shoemaker made a valuable addition to the stanch citizenship of Hancock county.

LEVI BRIGHT.

In the great and prosperous agricultural district of Hancock county, Ohio, one of the well known farmers is Levi Bright, who owns and resides on one hundred and two acres in Amanda township and also has three hundred and thirteen in Big Lick township. The Bright family has been intimately associated with the development and progress of this county for many years, and both the grandfather, Major, and the father, Nimrod Bright, were old settlers of the county. Further information concerning the family will be found in the history of Major Bright, on another page of this book.

Levi had his birth on his father's farm in Big Lick township, May 22, 1844. He was reared in the atmosphere of farm life, was early inured to its labors, and after enjoying the advantages of the common schools of his neighborhood he entered upon agricultural pursuits as his life work. But while still a boy he was called away from the peaceful existence of the farm to the stirring scenes of the Civil war. In 1862 he was enrolled as a member of Company H, Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the battles of Arkansas Post, Allen's Hill and the siege of Vicksburg. Disease incapacitated him for further service and he was honorably discharged in 1863. After his return from the war he began as a farmer on

his own account and about 1870 made his first purchase of real estate, amounting to forty acres, to which he has added by purchase and by his father's gifts until he now owns his present acreage. It is needless to say that he has been very successful in all that he has undertaken and is now rated as one of the foremost farmers of the county. He removed to Amanda township in 1895 and is now trustee of the township. With his brother, John, he developed the first oil well in the township, in 1901, and at the present time they own and operate thirteen wells. Mr. Bright is a member of the United Brethren church and serves as one of its trustees. His political beliefs are those of the Republican party.

On March 27, 1867, Mr. Bright married Miss Mary F. Dotts, the daughter of Andrew and Matilda Dotts, who was born in Hancock county in February, 1845, and passed away on Christmas day of 1889. Of this marriage there were born eight children, of whom four are living: Anna B., Cora D., Etha L. and Bertha M. April 20, 1890, Mr. Bright was married to Mrs. Frances M., the widow of Newton Roberts, a native of Pennsylvania, born March 19, 1861. Mrs. Bright is a daughter of Abraham and Adaline Williams, who were born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, who came to Hancock county from West Virginia twenty-six years ago, and now reside in Big Lick township. Mr. and Mrs. Bright have four children, Sylvia M., Hazel A., Thornton I. and Weldon L. Mr. Bright and his family enjoy the high regard of a large number of friends and acquaintances and are good and worthy citizens of the county.

WILLIAM F. BRICKMAN.

A representative of the legal fraternity in Hancock county, William F. Brickman is engaged in the practice of law in McComb and has gained a good clientage, which has connected him with much important litigation and legal business. He is one of the native sons of this county, his birth having occurred in Washington township, upon his father's farm, in 1866. He is a son of William Brickman, who was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in the year 1825, and spent the days of his boyhood and youth in that country, but in 1854 he sailed for the new world, for the tales he had heard concerning business opportunities in this country attracted him to American shores. He made his way across the country to Hancock county, Ohio, and throughout his life carried on farming. His death occurred in 1883, seven children surviving him: Lewis; Samuel; Sarah, the wife of Charles F. Greiner; William F., whose name introduces this record; Minnie, the wife of

Diverney Calhoun; Anna C., the wife of John W. Preble; and Etta C., who completes this family, of whom our subject is the fourth.

During the very early boyhood of William F. Brickman his parents removed to Portage township, Hancock county, Ohio, where he was reared and educated, attending the country schools through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he carried on agricultural pursuits, assisting his father in the work of field and meadow. He was thus engaged until twenty years of age, when he left the parental roof and made his way to Angola, Indiana, becoming a student in the Tri-State Normal College, of which he is a graduate, having completed the course with the class of 1890. He then entered the law office of Judge W. L. Penfield, of Auburn, Indiana, under whose direction he studied for a year, and then went to the state of Washington, locating in Pullman, where he engaged in teaching school for about a year, although he remained there for twenty months.

Later Mr. Brickman became a student in the law department of the State University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated in 1893, and then he entered upon the practice of his profession in McComb, where a liberal patronage has been won, his clientage coming from a good class of people. He is deeply interested in his profession, thoroughly prepares his cases before entering the courtroom and before judge or jury is a strong advocate.

In 1900, in Hancock county, Mr. Brickman was united in marriage to Miss Vina S., daughter of Oliver P. Shaw, and the hospitality of the best homes of this locality is extended to them. In his political views Mr. Brickman is a Democrat, and socially he belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and to the Ben Hur Tribe. He belongs to the Lutheran church and thus gives due attention to the social and moral phases of life as well as to his professional duties and interests.

PETER H. POWELL.

Peter H. Powell has for many years been identified with agricultural pursuits in Eagle township, Hancock county, and his farm, being in the oil belt of this state, now has upon it a number of producing oil wells, whereby his income is materially increased each year. He was born July 17, 1838, on the farm which is yet his home, his parents being Philip and Elizabeth (Fellers) Powell, the former a native of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, the latter of Fairfield county, Ohio. The Powell family is of Welsh origin as far back as the ancestry can be traced and for two centuries has been represented in

MR. AND MRS. PETER H. POWELL.

America, five brothers of the name having come to this country at one time about two hundred years ago. They became scattered, however, and no authentic record of their descendants is obtainable. The one who located in Pennsylvania was William Powell, who operated a ferry on one of the principal rivers of the Keystone state.

John Philip Powell, the first to settle in Ohio, was a pioneer of Fairfield county. He entered several hundred acres of land from the government and divided it among his children. Peter Powell, the grandfather of our subject, entered one hundred acres for each of his children and settled the following sons in Hancock county: Peter, John, Henry, Samuel, Philip and Jacob, although Peter died in Fairfield county. Two other sons, George and Daniel, were settled elsewhere, the former in Wood county, Ohio, the latter in Carey, this state. Samuel and Henry were the pioneers here, coming in 1830 or 1831. Their father, Peter, spent his last years here, passing away when eighty-five years of age. He was a man of decided views, fearless in defense of his honest convictions and was respected by all who knew him. All of his sons have now passed away, the last being Jacob, who departed this life in Findlay, at the age of eighty-five.

In 1834 Philip Powell, the father of our subject, came to Hancock county and settled in the midst of the green woods, where he began to make a farm, carrying on the work of its improvement until his death, which occurred in 1866. The mother of our subject had died about 1841, when only twenty-five years of age. They were the parents of three children: Joshua, of Liberty township; Peter, of this review; and Simon W., who left the old farm in 1859 and is now a civil and mining engineer of San Francisco. About 1842 the father had married again, Susanna Tussing, also of Fairfield county, becoming his wife. They had one child that died in infancy and the mother's death occurred in 1857. In 1850 Mr. Powell had built the house and in 1854 the barn and had made other substantial improvements on the property. He was a shoemaker, having picked up the trade in his youth. His father agreed to buy the leather if Philip would make him a pair of boots, which he did, and thus the father got a better fit than his sons, who had hired their boots made. In the winter months, in his own home, Philip Powell followed shoemaking and throughout the remainder of the year carried on farm work. He was a man of strict religious views and life and was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Association. In his family was much sickness, his second wife having been an invalid for seven years, while he was in poor health for about the same length of time. He broke up housekeeping and this necessitated his sons starting out in life for themselves.

Peter Powell was then nineteen years of age. He worked for his brother Joshua until he was married, March 24, 1861, to Elizabeth C. Cogley. After his father's death in 1866, he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the property and returned to the old home place in August, 1867. Here he has remained continuously since and has carried on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his business being so well conducted that they bring to him success. He also has thirteen oil wells sunk upon his farm and of these twelve are in operation and have produced a fair income. He has also become interested in property in Findlay in recent years.

In 1892 Mr. Powell was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died July 2, of that year, after a happy married life of thirty years. They were the parents of six children: Jacob Sylvester, of Eagle township, married Alice J. Decker; Alice A. is the wife of Oliver Yates, of Eagle township; Simon Joshua married Lizzie Billman and is living in Seneca county; Emma V. is the wife of J. W. Foreman, of Eagle township; Elmina is the wife of William Yates, of Liberty township; Clemmons L. is at home. On the 27th of December, 1894, Mr. Powell wedded Mrs. Jennie Deeds, the widow of Levi Deeds, and a daughter of James and Henrietta (Leeder) Beard, of Marion township, Hancock county, where she was born. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Ivy Deeds, now fourteen years of age.

With the exception of very brief intervals Mr. Powell has filled the office of justice of the peace since 1872 and his decisions are strictly fair and impartial, and during nine years of this time he was also township treasurer. For two terms he has been trustee and has been a member of the school board. He belongs to the Evangelical Association, and is a class leader and trustee in the church, and in every office in which he has been called to serve he has been found true and faithful to the trust reposed in him and to the obligations devolving upon him. In politics he is a Democrat. In 1872 he became a member of the Hancock Lodge, No. 73, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

WILLIAM C. DOTY.

The family to which Mr. Doty belongs has been identified with Hancock county affairs for over half a century, and none stand higher as citizens and business men. His father has lived on the same farm for sixty years, and has been a witness to the principal growth and development of Hancock county, most of which has occurred since the Civil war. John Doty was born in New Jersey, in October, 1816, and came west in early

manhood, settling first in Fairfield county, Ohio. In 1843 he removed to Hancock county, where he met and a year or two later married Margaret Walters, who was born in Kentucky, November 22, 1823. Immediately after marriage he took his bride to the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he had bought in Jackson township, and there he has lived through all the eventful years that have since passed by. He has, of course, greatly improved his farm lands since the first crude days and besides many other additions both for beauty and comfort he put up a handsome brick residence in 1867. He has been quite active and influential in connection with township affairs, having held the office of trustee two terms, land appraiser one term and served sixteen years as township treasurer. The family are connected with the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Doty is now trustee and in the past has been class leader and steward. His eight children are Margaret J.; William C.; Elijah; Henry, a presiding elder in the United Brethren church; Edward; John L.; H. Walter, an attorney at Findlay; and Flora E.

William C. Doty, second in the above enumerated list, was born on his father's farm in Jackson township, Hancock county, Ohio, December 10, 1846, and grew to maturity on the old homestead. In August, 1876, he made his first business investment by purchasing sixty-two acres of land in Amanda township, but after working this four years he sold it and invested the proceeds in the farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Jackson township which constitutes his present home place. During the twenty-two years of his occupancy Mr. Doty has greatly improved his estate in every way, especially by the erection of suitable outbuildings for storage of grain and housing of stock. He devotes his land to raising standard crops and keeps a sufficient amount of stock to consume the surplus, his operations being carried on by modern methods and that intelligent economy that insures the best results.

On the 15th of October, 1871, Mr. Doty was married to Anna, daughter of J. L. and Meletha (Clayton) Shields. Mrs. Doty's father was born in Virginia, and her mother in Maryland, near Sharpsburg. They became the parents of five children, Mrs. Doty being the youngest of the family. They moved from Fairfield county, Ohio, to Hancock in 1854, and located in Jackson township, where they both died, the father in his eighty-first year and the mother when seventy-five years of age. They belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Doty are parents of ten children, but of these the only ones living are: Fred S., John H., Edith, Harry and Edson. The family are members of the United Brethren church, in which Mr. Doty holds the position of steward, and they enjoy general esteem in the

social circles of their neighborhood. In 1898 Mr. Doty built his present modern residence, a house of ten rooms and up-to-date in every respect. It cost about two thousand dollars and is a credit to the community in which he lives. He has also a fine barn, eighty-four by thirty-eight, with wing sixty-four by twenty. In fact Mr. Doty's farm is one of the model ones of the township. He has been a life-long Democrat, but would not accept any office, though tendered them many times.

JOHN E. FINSEL.

Not in the desultory manner that renders effort without result, but with steady persistence has John E. Finsel carried on his work, and to-day he is numbered among the substantial farmers of Washington township, in Hancock county. Here he resides on a well tilled and superbly conducted farm. Every fence and every building on the farm is indicative of the intelligent methods which he pursues and the persistence and industry with which he carries them through.

Mr. Finsel was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, April 14, 1859. He is the son of John and Kunigunda (Walters) Finsel. These parents were both natives of Bavaria, Germany, where the former was born April 27, 1823, and the latter April 3, 1827. In separate families they emigrated to America in 1848 and were soon married, their voyage across the ocean occurring in the same vessel. After their marriage they located in Fremont, Sandusky county, where John applied himself to his trade, that of shoemaker. At this business he continued to 1871, at which time he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He owned forty acres of land, to which he soon added forty more, and by his industry became independent. In 1860 he removed to Seneca county, where he died August 19, 1902. He favored the policies of the Democratic party, and in religious matters was a communicant of the Roman Catholic church. Their family consisted of two children, our subject, and a daughter Kate, now the wife of William West.

John E. Finsel passed his life on the home farm in Seneca county without any event of special importance to break the monotony, attending the school of his home district in the winter, and passing the summer in the hard work of a pioneer farm. His advanced education was received at the Valparaiso Normal School, in which institution he fitted himself for teaching. This, however, he found not to his taste and soon abandoned it for agricultural pursuits, in which occupation he has been more than ordinarily successful. In fact he has the reputation of being one of the finest farmers of his town-

ship. In 1881 Mr. Finsel married Miss Mary C., daughter of John and Elizabeth Nause, to whom were born Bertha E., William J., Ralph A., Albert C., Clara H., Ellen E., Colletta C., Coral J. and Cleo B. The wife was born in Sandusky county, March 20, 1859. Mr. Finsel bought his present farm in 1890. He and his family are devout communicants of the Catholic church, and he has received recognition at the hands of his fellow citizens by election to the office of township trustee, serving also as clerk of the school board for a number of years. He favors in political matters the policies as set forth in the Democratic platform. He is an honest and upright citizen and as such deserves the commendation which he receives from a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

MARION A. COBB.

Marion township has no more highly respected or worthy citizen than this well known farmer, who has spent his entire life in Hancock county. He resides on a farm of one hundred and fourteen acres, which he has cultivated for a number of years. He was born in Cass township on the 11th of July, 1845, the son of Alonzo H. and Jerusha (Palmer) Cobb. Here he was reared, later removing to Marion township where he received the education that is commonly given in the country schools. Upon reaching his maturity he chose farming for an occupation, and has since been engaged in its activities. He bought his farm in 1876, and has continued to reside there since that time. He has made great improvements on the original place, and is now possessed of very modern property. The farm was formerly the property of William Davis, who was the brother of Mrs. Cobb. Mr. Cobb was joined in marriage on April 18, 1872, to Miss Sarah, daughter of William A. and Margaret Davis. Three children have come to bless their home, Viola M., Mamie E. and Harry A. Mrs. Cobb was born in Marion township on the 6th of March, 1845, and her family is further mentioned in another part of this volume.

The parents of Mr. Cobb were natives of Vermont, where the father was born on December 4, 1809, and his mother, July 3, 1812. They removed to Hancock county, Ohio, about the year 1841, locating in Cass township on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Here the father died early in life, the date being August 13, 1847. During his short existence he was a man of influence in his township, and is remembered as having served a number of years as justice of the peace, which office he administered with great acumen. He in religious faith was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His fam-

ily numbered three children, Charles, deceased, born July 26, 1834; Ann Jenette, deceased, born December 11, 1843; and Marion A., subject of this sketch. Mrs. Cobb the mother of the family died July 29, 1891. The grandfather of our subject, James Cobb, came to Ohio and settled at the same time with his son, Alonzo H., on one hundred and sixty acres in Cass township. He continued to reside there until his death in 1847. He is remembered as a man of most powerful physique, weighing some 270 pounds. His height was six feet and seven inches.

Mr. and Mrs. Cobb are passing the declining years of their lives among friends who delight to honor them.

GEORGE H. PHELPS.

An interesting because original character is the senior member of Phelps & David, one of the leading law firms in practice at the Findlay bar. Whether right or wrong there is never anything commonplace about Mr. Phelps, who seems to have an instinctive abhorrence of what Goldsmith called "that rascally virtue prudence," in his discussion of men and things. Not only has he opinions to express, but these are usually delivered with an emphasis and trenchancy which are sure to attract attention if they do not cause conviction. This temperamental characteristic accompanies his intercourse in all the relations of life, with the result that Mr. Phelps is appreciated both as an entertaining and instructive companion, especially by those who abhor the overstocked "world of commonplace." Doubtless Mr. Phelps inherits his quality of decisiveness from his lamented father who, by all accounts from those who knew him best, was a very remarkable man in more ways than one. Augustus H. Phelps was a native of New York, who spent most of his life on a farm which he employed some one to manage for him. He never failed to attract attention at first sight, his drawing qualities being both mental and physical. His physical appearance was indeed so striking as to extract admiration from any beholder and recall to the reader of Shakespeare Hamlet's famous description of his father in the scene with his queen mother. The perfect form, open and manly features, bright eyes and other personal adornments were backed by a mind of the greatest brilliancy and strength. Widely read in the best literature of all peoples, a profound student of deep questions, and gifted with a conversational ability that was phenomenal an its range and forcefulness, the elder Phelps was a companion whose talk entranced every listener. In his religious views he was a freethinker and deeply versed in the works of all the great infidel writers from Voltaire to Ingersoll, but he denied being an atheist,

always saying in this connection that he could not realize an effect without a cause. Broad in all his views, he had a contempt for all that was little and narrow, especially for cant and superstition in all its forms. He was fitted, had the opportunity offered, to become a leader among men and grapple successfully with most difficult problems. But alas!

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear.
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Augustus H. Phelps died in 1897, in his eighty-first year,.

George H. Phelps, son of the remarkable man sketched in the foregoing paragraph, was born at Hinsdale, New York, September 24, 1854, and remained on his father's farm until nineteen years old. Meantime he had attended school at intervals and formed a resolution to make a lawyer of himself. With this end in view he borrowed some law books from the late Alexander Storrs, father of the famous Chicago advocate, Emory Storrs, and with these he secluded himself to pore over the mysteries of Blackstone, the deep logic of Greenleaf, and the quaint conceptions of Coke upon Littleton. A law student without a teacher is apt to become discouraged, and young Phelps was wise when in the spring of 1874 he sought aid in the office of Champlain, Armstrong & Russell at Cuba, New York. He remained there one year as a clerk and had a similar position for another year in the office of Loveridge & Swift, of the same town. In the spring of 1876 he entered the office of Enos C. Brooks at Olean, New York, as a clerk, remained there until April of the following year, when he was admitted to the bar at Rochester and returned to Olean to locate. He was engaged in the practice of his profession at that place for ten years and made his first appearance at Findlay in April, 1888. Shortly thereafter he formed a partnership with Judge M. C. Whiteley, which continued only eighteen months, and after that time Mr. Phelps practiced alone until October, 1899. He then entered into a partnership with W. L. David, Jr., which under the firm name of Phelps & David, continues at the present time.

Mr. Phelps has never taken any part or interest in politics, office-seeking or office-holding, for the reason, as he expresses it, that the lawyer in his profession and practice is sufficiently parasitical in a struggling society, and that in taking on politics he was adding insult to injury. He did, however, hold the office of notary public by appointment from the governor, until the Supreme court of Ohio, on the relation of the attorney general, and on au-

thority of the state constitution, ousted a Miss Adams from the office on the ground that ladies were ineligible, when he resigned his commission in a letter to the governor, in which he stated as his reason for resigning, that when it had come about that a bright woman could not adorn the office of notary public without having the constitution raised on her by a man, he regarded the office as a disgrace, rather than an honor. Mr. Phelps was married in 1882 to Miss Dell Canfield and to that union was born one living daughter—Nina A. Mrs. Phelps died in 1891 and in 1892 Mr. Phelps married his present wife, who was Ada C. Wicker, also of Olean, New York. In politics, he is at this date known as the "Greenback party of Ohio."

ALEXANDER MILLER.

The subject of this sketch, whose name is given above, has achieved distinction in two departments of industry, those of mechanic and farmer, and in both lines he has long occupied a well recognized position in the front rank. He worked in Hancock county thirty-two years at the carpenter's trade and gained the reputation of being the foremost builder in the county, remarkable for the neatness as well as the skill displayed in all his work. As a farmer, too, he ranked well up to the front in that long line of enterprising agriculturists whose energy and resourcefulness have made the Buckeye state so famous for its crops and stock. Though his family connections have long been identified with other parts of Ohio, Mr. Miller is their only representative in Hancock county, of which he has been a resident for forty-five years.

His father, Isaac Miller, was born in Virginia in 1814, but came to Ohio in early manhood and spent the most of his subsequent life in the county of Licking as a farmer. He was a successful business man and accumulated considerable means during his career. A member of the United Brethren church, he lived an upright moral life, and was esteemed both as a good husbandman and good citizen. After locating in Ohio he married Sarah Knepper, a native of Fairfield county, where she was born in 1818, and this union resulted in the birth of eleven children, of whom nine grew to maturity and seven are still living. Alexander Miller, one of the latter, was born on his father's farm in Licking county, Ohio, May 10, 1838, and remained there until the nineteenth year of his age. In March, 1857, he came to Hancock county, located in Blanchard township and followed the carpenter's trade, in which he soon acquired unusual proficiency. As his skill in this branch of

Alexander Miller

Melissa Miller

mechanics became known, he had no difficulty in obtaining work, and this he turned off so satisfactorily that for thirty-two years he was kept busy in his chosen calling. In 1859 Mr. Miller purchased from Fountain N. Clymer eighty acres of land in Blanchard township, which was at the time wholly unimproved but which, with forty more acres added in 1871, has been brought to a high state of cultivation. After securing his first real estate, Mr. Miller divided his time between farming and carpentering, and attended to each with such assiduity as to obtain the best results. In fact, the Miller farm and the Miller houses vied with each other in neatness of appearance and efficiency of workmanship, no job being turned out by this master mechanic which was not able to withstand the most rigid criticism. In 1887 he sustained a severe loss by the destruction of his barn and contents by fire, but this calamity was soon repaired by his energy and undaunted determination. In place of the original buildings, newer and far finer ones were erected on the old sites, and now it is admitted that none superior are to be found in the township. All the surroundings are neat and attractive and the tasteful workmanship with all the modern improvements gives evidence of a master mind and hand behind the designs and construction.

September 16, 1860, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Miss Melissa Wise, born in Blanchard township in 1843 and whose family is deserving of more than a passing mention. Her grandfather, George Adam Wise, was a native of France and served as a soldier under Napoleon Bonaparte. He crossed the ocean in 1842, accompanied by his wife Barbara and settled in Hancock county, where both ended their days, he in 1846 and she in 1854. Among their six children was John Wise, father of Mrs. Miller, who accompanied his parents from Wheeling, West Virginia, where he was born, and became a school teacher after settling in Ohio. He also learned carpentering and worked at that trade in conjunction with farming, between the two making a very comfortable living. Three of his four children are living, including Mrs. Miller, who is the only one of them residing in Hancock county. The latter's mother died March 4, 1886, and her father passed away August 6, 1901, both much esteemed by those who had known them best. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Miller have had eight children, of whom Mary E., born in 1861, Martha J., born in 1863, and William H., born 1864, are deceased. Those living are Carrie W., born in 1866; Rose B., born in 1868; Grove E., born in 1873; Vernon E., born in 1880, and Merritt C., born in 1883. Mr. Miller has never been an office seeker, but at the request of his neighbors served three years as assessor and one year as real estate appraiser of the township, being elected by the Republican party, to which he has always

belonged. Both himself and family are members of the United Brethren church and in all the relations of life, as neighbors, friends and citizens, perform their duties as good Christians.

LUKE H. BROADWATER.

In Luke H. Broadwater, the efficient manager of the Findlay Glycerine Company, the city of Findlay has an estimable and useful citizen. His birth was on a farm, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1870, where he remained until he was sixteen years of age, in attendance upon the public schools and assisting in the work of the farm. Subsequently he enjoyed excellent educational advantages at Berlin, Pennsylvania, at New Centerville, and later at the Normal Institute, at Marshalltown, Iowa.

Prior to locating in Iowa our subject taught school in his native state, and also followed that profession for three terms in Iowa. In 1891 he came to Findlay, Ohio, and for one year read law in the office of a local attorney, and then entered into the employ of the Bradford Glycerine Company, as bookkeeper, remaining with the concern from August, 1892, until April 1, 1897. The business then changed hands and Mr. Broadwater remained with the new firm for a few months, and then, with others, organized the Findlay Glycerine Company, entering the business as manager, and of which he is now president and general manager. This company supplies nitro-glycerine and shoots wells, their trade being a large one through the oil districts. Mr. Broadwater is also interested in two factories in Kentucky, one at Burnside and the other at Barbourville. These are the same kind as the Findlay company.

In 1895 Mr. Broadwater was first married, to Miss Amelia Ziegler, who died November 19, 1900. October 17, 1901, our subject was again married, Miss Catherine Wasson, of Findlay, Ohio, becoming his wife.

In political sentiment Mr. Broadwater is a Democrat, but takes no active interest in politics, being a thoroughly practical business man, and closely identified with the interests of his company. His fraternal association is with the Elks, in which order he is very popular.

MARY A. WOLFE.

We are now privileged to touch upon the life history of one of Hancock county's most estimable families, the immediate representative of which is the above lady, who is the widow of the late Levi Wolfe, of Marion town-

ship. She was born at Hagerstown, Washington county, Maryland, September 22, 1833, and is the daughter of William and Margaret Davis, of the same state. Her parents left that portion of the country in the fall of 1833, and during the overland journey to Ohio they lost a son as the result of an attack of sickness. This misfortune caused them to remain for the winter at the place where it occurred, so that it was in the spring of 1834 before they finally reached Marion township, of this county. Here the father entered a claim of forty acres, which he subsequently sold but soon bought another forty, which was increased at various times until his holdings amounted to six hundred acres of the most valuable land in the county. William Davis was a man of influence and character in his township, where for a number of years he held the office of justice of the peace, and was also county commissioner for a long period. He was kind to the poor, hospitable to all, and a man whose friends were myriad. He was a worthy member of the Baptist church, and proved his usefulness in that denomination by an active and consistent religious life. He was joined in marriage to Margaret Lafferty in 1830, and to this union there were born eleven children, nine of whom are now living. Mrs. Margaret Davis died in October of 1882, her husband having passed away a number of years before, in 1863. His death was caused by anxiety for a favorite son John, who was a soldier in the active service during the Civil war. He had been wounded at the battle of Picket Mills, where his father in searching for him contracted a cold, and which caused his death in the year above stated. He was a man of sterling qualities of character, and was missed by his host of friends. His life was one of usefulness, and he assisted in the events which helped to inaugurate the period of prosperity which his descendants now enjoy. The son John recovered from the wound, and returning to the army was unfortunate enough to be captured at the battle of Stone River. He was kept a prisoner in the lines of the enemy for a considerable period, but was finally exchanged and returned home. Mary A. Wolfe was joined in marriage to Levi Wolfe on the 14th of August, 1851. The marriage resulted in the birth of four children: Margaret J., Lydia A., Fannie D., and John W., the last two deceased. Levi Wolf, the father of the family, was was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 20th of August, 1825. He there received an excellent common school education which fitted him for his life of usefulness. In 1843 he, together with his parents, Rev. David and Lydia Wolfe, removed to Hancok county. They first located upon eighty acres in Marion township, to which they added afterwards fifty more. Their family numbered eleven children, but two of whom are now living, viz: John and Christian Wolfe. Rev. David Wolfe was a minister in the Evangelical

church, and during his active career did much to build up that organization in that part of the state. By trade Levi Wolfe was a blacksmith in his younger life, but when the Civil war broke out he offered himself a willing sacrifice on the altar of his country, by enlisting in 1862 in Company E, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In the bloody battle of Shiloh, while trying to bind up a comrade's wound, he was taken prisoner and confined for a period at Macon, Georgia. He was finally exchanged, but was in such an emaciated condition as to cause his death before he reached home. He died in the city of Cincinnati on July 30, 1862. During his life he held some of the responsible township offices, was a man of influence in his neighborhood and a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Previous to his army life he made provision for his family by laying the foundation for their present home. His kindness of heart and noble traits of character erected in the memories of the members of his family a lasting monument.

ALDEN H. COBB.

Alden H. Cobb was born in Cass township, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1847, on the farm where he now resides, which has never been out of the family since it was purchased by his grandfather, Foster Cobb. The latter was a native of Vermont, as was also his wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1811, having been born in 1782.

In 1835 Foster Cobb with his four children moved upon the farm in Cass township, Hancock county, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, and with the assistance of his son Foster, did much of the clearing and improvement. He died on August 3, 1840. His second wife, Lydia, died in 1835. His children were as follows: Alonzo, Chester, John, Foster, Jane, David, Nathan, Nancy and Elmira.

Foster Cobb, fourth in the above list of children, was born on June 15, 1817, in Vermont, and walked closely in the footsteps of his honored father, proving himself a most worthy citizen. He was a justice of the peace for many years, a trustee and held most of the local offices, filling each to the complete satisfaction of every one, being held in high esteem. He married Mary Davis, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio. Of their four children, our subject is the only survivor. His father's death occurred in 1883, the mother of our subject having passed away in 1851.

Alden H. Cobb was educated in the district schools of the time and place, but in great measure he fitted himself for the life of usefulness he has led. Mr. Cobb is a practical farmer and no one better understands the qualities of

soil and the advantages of different methods of agriculture than he. He is also a successful stockraiser, giving close attention to that part of his business also. April 29, 1875, he was married to Catherine, daughter of Jacob Stecker, who was born in Cass township, August 13, 1856. One son, Charles Curtis, was born to this union.

Jacob Stecker was born in 1824, in Germany and emigrated to America in 1840, being at that time about sixteen years of age. He attained a position of influence in Hancock county, where he established his home, and for many years was a justice of the peace in Cass township. He was a worthy member of the Methodist church. Mr. Stecker died on October 12, 1901. He first married Rosanna C. Klink, a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who died leaving four children, Mrs. Cobb being the eldest. His second wife was Mariah Jameson, who died February 22, 1899, without issue.

Mr. Cobb is one of the intelligent and progressive farmers of Cass township and his fine farm shows the cultivation which it receives. He is a leading member of the Lutheran church and has held the office of deacon in this religious body. In public matters Mr. Cobb has always taken a deep interest and he has served the township at times as trustee and as clerk. He is a man of enlarged ideas, possesses most excellent judgment and stands high among his neighbors on account of his many estimable traits of character.

CHARLES R. WATSON.

The attractions of the life of a farmer are many; he is free and independent, monarch of all he surveys, so to speak, and he is the owner of the most stable and satisfying property in the world, little subject to the fluctuations of the market; while the sowing of the grain and the patient toil and waiting for the harvest add a touch of color to the occupation and afford something of the fever of the speculators on the stock market, uncertain what time may bring forth. And in the modern conditions of agriculture with all the late improvements there is a vast field for the progressive man who desires to make the most out of his land.

One of the young and promising farmers of Union township, Hancock county, whose future outlook is clear and bright is Charles R. Watson. This hardy tiller of the soil is the son of William and Susan (Heck) Watson, of Liberty township, who are well and favorably known citizens of the county. Charles made his advent into the world in Liberty township in 1867, and with the usual lot of a farmer boy he spent his youthful days in learning the duties of the farm, in attending the country school in the

winter season, and enjoying, as only a farmer boy can enjoy, the sports and recreations of the country. He was an unusually bright and studious lad in school and he has found in after life abundant opportunity to apply the lessons which he learned in the familiar old school. He early made farming the choice of vocations and has since devoted his best efforts to the work. He came into the possession of his present farm in 1899; it consists of two hundred and four acres of fertile and highly cultivated soil, which he devotes to the raising of general farm produce and stock. Mr. Watson also has an interest in his father's farm in Liberty township. This farm is a valuable one from the fact that there are twenty-eight producing oil wells in operation, and thus he has a share in the production of one of the most important of the world's commodities, one, by the way, which has been available for commercial purposes only a little more than forty years.

In 1900 Mr. Watson celebrated his marriage to Miss Myrtie Oman the daughter of Jacob and Nellie Oman, of Eagle township, Hancock county; she was born in this township on December 20, 1876, and her parents are also natives of the same place and are members of an old pioneer family. Mr. and Mrs. Watson are numbered among the county's highly respected citizens and enjoy a well deserved prosperity. He is a Democrat in political views, well known throughout the county. He engaged in the oil business in 1902 on the home farm in Liberty township.

HENRY REITER.

As one passes through an agricultural community and notes the general condition of the farms to the right and left and learns the general characteristics of the owners, he is soon impressed with the marked excellence of the places which are owned by German-Americans; the large barns and other farm buildings, the well arranged grounds and well tilled fields, and the air of neatness and thrift pervading the whole place show the farmer of Teutonic origin to deserve rank among the peers of agriculturists and most substantial citizens.

Henry Reiter, who is an enterprising farmer and resident of Union township, Hancock county, has the honor to be classed among these citizens of the fatherland. His parents, Sebastian and Charlotte Reiter, were both native Germans, who emigrated to this country in 1835 and settled in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, where they remained for two years. In 1838 they removed to Hancock county, Ohio, making their home in Union township, and about 1842 they purchased a small farm of forty acres, just

enough to give him a fair start,—and that was all he needed,—for at this time he was a very poor man. A few years later he sold the place at an advance and in 1855 bought another and larger farm of eighty acres, now the property of his son and daughter, Sebastian and Lydia. Mr. Reiter was a good business man for one whose education had been necessarily limited and by his hard work and good management he accumulated enough property at his death to give each of his seven living children eight hundred dollars. He died in September, 1878, aged sixty-nine years, having been born in 1809, while his wife, who was born in 1816, passed away December 28, 1898. They had eleven children, of whom six are now alive.

The birth of Mr. Reiter occurred in Baden, Germany, before his parents left their native land. Being brought to this country at an early age he has been under American institutions and influences and is therefore a thorough American in everything except his birth. He has been a successful farmer and has owned and resided on his present farm since 1872.

In 1871 Mr. Reiter became the husband of Miss Eliza Brown, and to this happy union have been born three children, Franklin, on August 27, 1872; Arthur, on March 26, 1874; and Mable, August 5, 1878. His first wife died in 1880 and for his second wife Mr. Reiter married Miss Leah Steiner in 1882, to which union no children have been born. Mr. and Mrs. Reiter are devout members of the Disciples church and enjoy the confidence and esteem of their many friends.

SEBASTIAN J. REITER.

Sebastian J. Reiter is a member of that class of farmers who are so much needed in every farming section and are necessarily prosperous because of their methods and excellent habits of doing things; he is a man of intelligence in regard to farming methods and believes in conducting matters on a thoroughly systematic basis, which is just as necessary in farming as in any other line of business. He is the son of German parents, Sebastian and Charlotte B. (Bookmiller) Reiter, who in 1835 came to America with a family of five children and located in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. They were in very poor circumstances when they arrived, being in debt to the amount of twenty-one dollars. In 1838 they moved farther west to Hancock county and in the course of a few years bought a little farm of forty acres in Union township, where by his industry and capable management he obtained a vantage ground in the business world. He afterward sold this place and in 1855 bought the eighty acres of land which is now the

property of our subject and his sister. Although an illiterate man through force of circumstances, Mr. Reiter possessed the requisite quality for success in this land of opportunity and at his death was able to give each of his seven living children eight hundred dollars, over and above the farm on which he resided and which was later bought by its present owners; eleven children were born to them in all. In religious belief they originally belonged to the Evangelical church, later joined the Christian Union, in which faith they passed away, he in September, 1878, aged sixty-nine years and nine months, and his wife in December 28, 1898, aged eighty-two years.

Sebastian J. Reiter is a native of Union township, Hancock county, being born January 10, 1852, and in his native place he was reared and educated; so well did he improve his opportunities in school that he was himself able to instruct others and for six terms taught in the state of Illinois. He then traveled around extensively, getting as far west as Nebraska, and in 1882 he returned to his native county, where he has lived ever since. He and his sister Lydia live on their eighty acre farm, which he manages and is meeting with gratifying success. He still enjoys the blessings of single life and is devoted to his business. He has taken much interest in public affairs and has served his township in the capacity of trustee, assessor and supervisor. Like the other members of his family, he is a communicant of the Christian Union church.

VALENTINE POWELL.

No name is better or more favorably known in the agricultural circles of Hancock county than that borne by the subject of this sketch. He belongs to a numerous family connection, long established in this part of Ohio, and identified permanently with its growth and development. The particular branch to which our subject belongs originated in the Keystone state, where his ancestors figured in the agricultural and industrial movements for many generations in the past. They sent forth offshoots toward the west during the pioneer period and had representatives at various points while the wilderness was being reclaimed. In 1834 Samuel and Sarah Powell, shortly after their marriage and while still enjoying the enthusiasm of youth, left Fairfield for Hancock county, Ohio, where they formed a permanent location in Liberty township. They reared a family of thirteen children, who, as they grew up, ramified throughout their native and neighboring counties and with their descendants furnished representatives to most of the various vocations

V. Powell & Wife

in life. As previously stated, the Powells, both of the older and younger generations, are most favorably known as citizens of probity and usefulness.

Valentine Powell, son of Samuel and Sarah, was born on his father's large farm in Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, August 19, 1847, and was reared as well as educated in the neighborhood of the ancestral home. In 1864, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for four months and saw some active service in Virginia. In his earlier years he was engaged in the lumbering business, but later took up farming and has since adhered to agricultural pursuits. In 1878 he made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty acres, in Blanchard township, which he has greatly improved and modernized. This tract constitutes Mr. Powell's present home, whose commodiousness and surrounding comforts afford ample proof of good husbandry. In 1871 he was happily married to Miss Sophronia, daughter of John and Mary Schoonover, well-to-do people of Liberty township, who was born January 11, 1852. This union resulted in the birth of eight children, of whom the seven now living are: Earl R., Carrie, Everett, Bertha, Olive, Carl and Orville. Mr. and Mrs. Powell are members of the United Brethren church. In politics Mr. Powell's affiliations have always been with the Republican party, but his interest is confined to voting, as he has never been either a seeker or holder of office. His whole attention has been concentrated upon his business, and that his efforts have been rewarded is seen by a glance at his well tilled and neatly arranged estate. He is a practical as well as progressive farmer and keeps abreast of all improvements relating to agriculture, employing the best implements and using only up-to-date methods.

LEVI MILLER.

Sixty years a resident of Orange township, Hancock county, there are not many who can boast to have lived here for a longer period. And when Levi Miller first arrived at the age when his boyish eyes would roam around him and take note of the strange scenes that greeted him on every side, he became acquainted with an entirely different environment than that which now lies before him as he goes down the other side of the slope of life. The log house which figured as the birth place and home of boyhood for many who have wrought and are now passing away is one of the curiosities and reminders to the American of to-day of the transformations and progress of time; and as young Levi stood in the doorway of his log home, he

probably never dreamed, notwithstanding all the air castles which youth can construct of flimsy nothing, of the changes which would make this inland state almost the center of the great world of commerce and industry which was moving westward.

His father, William Miller, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, came to Hancock county about 1840 and located in Orange township, on the farm which is now owned by Edward Battles. His occupation throughout his life was that of farming, but he died at the comparatively early age of forty years. He had married a native daughter of Vermont, Roxanna Patch, who lived to be seventy-eight years old and became the mother of five sons and four daughters. The third child and second son of these was Levi, and his birth was announced in that little house of hewn logs in Orange township on June 20, 1842. Until he was twenty years of age his life was not unusual, but was sufficiently varied by his work on the farm and by his attendance in the winter at the old school house. But the Civil war came on and afforded all the interest that may have been lacking from his earlier career. He enlisted in 1862 in Company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and carried a musket in the ranks for twenty-seven months, at the close of which period he received his discharge on account of disability. He participated in the battle of Chickamauga and other engagements, but escaped without a wound; but he was taken sick and compelled to lie in the hospitals at Louisville, Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennessee, never recovering sufficiently to do active service.

Returning from the war, Mr. Miller at first worked out by the month on the farms of the neighborhood, but he was married a few years later and then decided to take up a permanent location. He is not ashamed to recall that he and his wife made their first home in a rather rude log house on the farm which he still owns. But time and his diligence soon rewarded him, and he has put up a good home, barns and all necessary farm buildings and devoted his eighty acres of land to general farming and stock raising. His farm is not only productive in the ordinary products of the soil but has five oil wells which furnish fuel for all time.

The first marriage of Mr. Miller, which we have mentioned, was in 1870, to Mary Miller, who was born in Ohio and came to Hancock county when a child. This lady passed away after she had been his faithful companion for a number of years and had become the mother of three children. One of these died in infancy, while Newton was killed by the cars at Findlay; the remaining son, John, is a resident of Bluffton, Ohio. Mr. Miller married his present wife in 1893; her name was Jane Reddick, the widow of Lemuel Reddick. Mr. Miller has not neglected the other phases of life's interests, and is a mem-

ber of the Grand Army post at Bluffton and remains a firm adherent of the Republican party. His long residence in the county has identified him with many of the public matters, and he is one of the well known citizens who help and are helped by the common welfare of the community.

GEORGE W. WATKINS.

Thomas Watkins, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, was the first member of this well known family to take up his residence in Hancock county. About 1825, when the country was still in that raw and unsettled state which precedes the full bloom of civilization, he located in what is now Union township. His wife, whose Christian name was Susan, bore him twelve children, and of this number ten grew to maturity. An example of his kindness in providing for his children has come down, that to each of these children as they successively reached maturity, he gave eighty acres of land, a good team and a plough, with which outfit they were well prepared to fight the battles of life. And not only did Thomas Watkins bear the reputation of being kind to his own family, but he was known everywhere as an upright and self-sacrificing man, devoted to the best interests of his community and his fellow citizens. He was a farmer of the old pioneer stripe, making the very best of all circumstances and never complaining at adverse fate. The period of his life extended over seventy-two years, from 1786 to August 19, 1858, and his wife, Susannah, was born in 1792, and died March 17, 1872, aged eighty years. Only one of their large family is now living.

Isaac Watkins was one of the sons of the above parents and was born in Union township, Hancock county, in 1826. Being reared and educated on his father's farm and inheriting his father's generous equipment, he naturally took to farming on his eighty acres situated north of Mount Cory. In 1864 he felt it his duty to go to the defense of the Union and as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio Volunteers, he was with General Sheridan on his famous raid through the Shenandoah valley, at the close of the war receiving his honorable discharge. He was married in 1845 to Esther Corwin, who became the mother of his nine children, seven of whom are living and two are residents of Hancock county. Later in life Mr. Watkins removed to the state of Michigan, where in 1893 he died at the age of sixty-seven years, but his widow is still living in that state.

G. W. Watkins is the son of the last named parents, and his birth occurred in Union township in 1853, there being reared and educated. He

has always followed agricultural pursuits and has met with marked success, such as one would expect from a man of his native energy and ability. His first farm consisted of one hundred acres and in 1894 he sold it and bought his present place of one hundred and sixty acres, which he devotes to general farming and stock raising.

In 1877 Mr. Watkins was married to Miss Lydia A. Shoemaker, the daughter of Jacob and Judith Shoemaker, who was born on the farm upon which she now resides in 1859. Of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Watkins, the five now living are Forest W., Charles M., Etta J., Jessie A. and Everett. While Mr. Watkins takes a true American's interest in political affairs in general he has never aspired to office. He is devoted to his family and the practical business of his beautiful farm, which is located to the south of the peaceful village of Mount Cory.

GEORGE McARTHUR.

The subject of this sketch is one of the contributors of Scotland to this country, and those acquainted with him agree that "old Scotia" has sent out no worthier or more industrious son. All of his adult life has been spent in America and most of it at Findlay, where as a manufacturer of boilers he has done his full share toward the growth and prosperity of the city's industries. The British Isles are famous for their mechanics, whose rigid technical training and reliability in execution make them desirable acquisitions in every workshop in the world, and Mr. McArthur has shown himself to be a worthy representative of this guild.

George McArthur was born at Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1863, and thirteen years later was brought across the ocean by his parents, who located in Canada. In 1881, when he had reached his eighteenth year, young McArthur went alone to Detroit, where he remained for fifteen years in the employ of John McGregor in the manufacture of boilers, and then came to Findlay, where he has since been engaged in the boiler business. His father, Alexander McArthur, who was also born in Scotland, finally joined the son at Findlay and is now a resident of that city. Mr. McArthur has prospered in his business, in the management of which he has exhibited energy, skill and good judgment, and the products of his establishment find no difficulty in obtaining purchasers. He has the Scottish fondness for fraternal fellowship and gratifies this social inclination by membership in several of the important fraternities. Included in these is Masonry, in which ancient order he has reached the thirty-second degree, and he is

also a member of the Odd Fellows, the Encampment, Knights of Pythias and Elks. In addition to this he is district deputy of the Knights of the Golden Eagle and altogether devotes considerable time to duties devolved upon him by connection with these various orders. Though in politics in sympathy with the Republican party, he neither seeks nor cares for office and contents himself with a silent vote on what he considers the right side. In 1885 Mr. McArthur was married at Detroit, Michigan, to Mary Murphy, by whom he has two children, George and James. The family moves in an excellent social circle and the members are welcome guests in the most substantial households of the city.

WILLIAM A. WILLIAMSON.

The noble art of husbandry has ever been the conservator of our national progress and prosperity, and among those prominently concerned as its votaries in this section is the subject of this review. He was born in Orange township, Hancock county, Ohio, on the 19th of February, 1854, his parents being William and Jane (McCroskey) Williamson, the former born in Greene county, Ohio, in 1810, and the latter in Vriginia, in 1813. Their marriage is believed to have been celebrated in Virginia, from which commonwealth they removed to Greene county, Ohio, and some years later took up their abode in Tuscarawas county, this state. In 1851 they cast in their lot with the early settlers of Hancock county, and in the following year Mr. Williamson purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Orange township, to which he subsequently added an additional tract of eighty acres. At the time of the purchase this land was in its primitive condition, but during the lifetime of Mr. Williamson it was cleared and improved and became one of the valuable homesteads of the locality. This worthy pioneer was a valued and consistent member of the United Presbyterian church, and in his political views was a stanch supporter of Republican principles. Ever loyal and patriotic, he gave three of his six sons to the cause of the Union during the dark days of the rebellion, one, Granville L., having died from the effects of wounds received in the battle of Chattanooga, while Madison H. died of disease contracted in the army. Joseph H., who was taken prisoner previous to the capture of the city of Richmond, is now a resident of Orange township, Hancock county. Of the ten children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Williamson only five are now living. The mother was called to her final rest on the 11th of September, 1877, and on the 24th of May, 1894, her husband joined her in the spirit world.

William A. Williamson, the immediate subject of this sketch, remained in the township of his nativity until reaching mature years, and to its public school system he is indebted for the educational privileges which he was permitted to enjoy in his youth. Removing to Union township, he there conducted a farm belonging to his father, and in 1876 purchased forty acres of his present place, to which he has added from time to time until his landed possessions now consist of one hundred and sixty acres, eighty acres of which are located in Union township, while the remainder lies in Orange township. In addition to his general farming Mr. Williamson is also engaged in stock raising, shipping about one carload a year. The sheep which he raises are of a superior grade, as are also his horses and hogs, and in both branches of his business he is meeting with a high and well merited degree of success. Aside from his extensive private affairs he has also found time to devote to the public welfare, having for a number of years served as the assessor of his township, was also president of the board of education for several years, and in all the movements and measures intended to advance the interests of his fellow men he has been an active and efficient worker.

On the 14th of October, 1880, Mr. Williamson was united in marriage to Miss Anna J. Hamilton, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1860, and is a daughter of James and Sarah Hamilton. This union has been blessed with two children,—James M. and Ruah E. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williamson are members of the United Presbyterian church, in which the former has long served as a deacon and elder, also a Sunday-school superintendent and has held other minor offices. He has given his aid in many generous ways to the perpetuation of those forces which conserve the best interests of the community, and the course that he has followed in political, business, social and home circles commends him to the high esteem of all. He was a member of the board of agriculture four years, president of the same for two years and vice president one year.

WILLIAM G. WAGGONER.

William G. Waggoner, one of the foremost and most successful farmers of Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, resides on a farm of eighty acres, which he devotes to general farming, and on which are a number of valuable gas and oil wells. Mr. Waggoner was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, March 4, 1840, and removed with his parents to this county when ten years of age. He has lived on his present farm since the year 1875. For a number of years he was engaged in the grocery business in Marion

township, but finally abandoned it for the present occupation. In public life he has done his duty to his fellow citizens, having served them in the offices of township trustee, supervisor and school director. He is ever ready to take part in anything that will inure to the benefit of society in his county and state. He was united in marriage to Miss Rachel, the daughter of William and Margaret Davis on the 7th day of October, 1866. The children born to this union are: Edward L., Charles D., and Mary M. The eldest son, Edward L. married Laura Wisely, and now resides in Findlay; Mary is the wife of John Welsch, and resides in Findlay. Mrs. Waggoner was born in Marion township in 1843, and for the further consideration of her family the reader is referred to a sketch of Mary A. Wolfe. William G. Waggoner is a son of Edward and Eliza (Allen) Waggoner. His father was born in Jefferson county in 1811, his mother in the same county in 1812. They were married on the 13th day of April, 1837, and their family numbered seven children, five of whom are now living. William G. is the only one residing in Ohio, the others being residents of Michigan.

In 1850 Edward Waggoner purchased eighty acres of land in Cass township, Hancock county, upon which he continued to reside until his removal to Michigan in 1875. In that state the father died in 1886 and his wife Eliza in 1884. The paternal grandmother of Mr. Waggoner was Mary Jackson, who was born in 1775, and died in 1840. She was related to President Andrew Jackson. Her husband, William Waggoner, was born July 1, 1776, and died in 1854. His maternal grandparents were Aaron and Mary Allen, who died in 1850 and 1843 respectively.

Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner enjoy the esteem and confidence of a very large circle of the best citizens of Hancock county, whom they delight to receive and entertain in their pleasant rural home. In politics he is an earnest Republican and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln.

NELSON COLEMAN.

When Thomas Coleman arrived in Hancock county in 1840, the aspect of affairs was by no means so inviting as it is at the present day. There were no large towns, no manufacturing industries except of the rude pioneer kind, and farming had yet to assume that scientific and progressive form which now distinguishes the fertile fields of the Buckeye state. The famous and historic campaign of "log cabin and hard cider," coonskins and primitive emblems was then in full blast, which was to land "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," in the seats of power at Washington. But young Coleman,

newly arrived from his native state of Delaware, was thinking more of finding some way of making a living than he was of politics, though no doubt he was affected by the prevailing enthusiasm and perhaps lent a hand in landing General Harrison in the presidential chair. However this may be, it is recorded that he located near what is now Benton Ridge, purchased forty acres of virgin soil and set to work manfully to cut and grub a home out of this primeval wilderness. That he succeeded is proved by the fact that before his death he not only made a productive farm out of the first purchase, but added to it about four hundred acres more, which was also brought to a high state of cultivation. In fact, Thomas Coleman was one of those stirring and industrious men who are up early and late, improve every moment of their time and are not satisfied until the best results obtainable from busy minds and hands are visible before their eyes. He came to the country a single man, but found an excellent wife in the person of Susan Baldwin, a daughter of one of his neighbors and a native of Hancock county. This union proved happy and fruitful and eight of their nine children are still living, all residents of Hancock county, as follows: Nelson, Theodore, Oliver, Herbert, Viola, Jennie, Belle and Charles. Effie, the fifth born, is deceased; and the father passed away April 21, 1901, after a residence of nearly sixty-one years in Hancock county.

Nelson Coleman, the eldest of the children, was born in Hancock county, April 1, 1853, and was reared on his father's farm in Blanchard township. He was trained to farm work, while attending the common schools in season, and has never followed any occupation except that connected with agriculture. In 1883 he bought fifty-six acres of land in his native township, only ten of which were cleared, and it is only necessary to look at it now to realize that Mr. Coleman has fully improved his time as a practical farmer. It is in the best state of cultivation, well fenced, well cleared and well tilled, with fine modern improvements and buildings up-to-date in all their conveniences. He inherited his father's thrift, economy and industrious traits, and these are reinforced by observing and taking advantage of the latest discoveries in agriculture. All his life Mr. Coleman has been also engaged in the stock business in connection with general farming. In politics he is a Republican and one of the leading men of Blanchard township.

In 1879, Mr. Coleman married Miss Caroline Hopkins, one of the neighborhood girls, and a daughter of M. E. and Maria M. Hopkins, estimable people of Blanchard township. The four children resulting from this union were Harry E., Hall, Alma and Gale, the two first mentioned being called from life at an early age. The family are connected with the United

Brethren church, in which Mr. Coleman holds the position of trustee, and they enjoy the good will which is due to those who spend blameless lives in an honorable calling.

JOHN F. HIRSCHBERGER.

Having been connected with the shoe business at Findlay for sixteen years, part of the time as salesman for others and latterly on his own account, the subject of this sketch is now one of the best known men of the city in that line of trade. He is also regarded as one of the best informed of the merchants engaged in furnishing footwear to the public, besides enjoying the reputation which his urbane manners and accommodating disposition have secured for him during his long years of contact with the people of Findlay and the territory tributary thereto. He has met with success in his ventures and those who know him most intimately will be ready to admit that this success is well deserved. As the name would indicate, he is of German origin, his father, Anthony Hirschberger, having been born in the empire of the Hohenzollerns in 1835. He came to America in his youth, first locating in New York state and later finding his way to the pretty town of Clyde, in Ohio. Throughout the period of his active life he was engaged in the business of shoe merchant and followed this occupation in Ohio until the time of his death in 1883. He was married in Rochester, New York, to Miss Kate Nape, by whom he had four children, the two survivors being Mary, wife of Alfred Passey, of Clyde, and John F. Hirschberger. The latter, to whom this memoir is especially devoted, was born in Rochester, New York, in 1861, and was deprived of his mother by death four years later. He was eleven years old when his father located in Clyde, Ohio, and he remained there until 1886. He attended the schools of that place but the most valuable part of his education was obtained by his service in various capacities in the shoe store of his father, and under the latter's experienced tutelage. He commenced this apprenticeship at the age of seventeen and continued it until his father's death five years later. From 1883 until 1886, Mr. Hirschberger was employed in other stores, one year as manager of the B. M. Lyons grocery and two years in the same kind of position at the clothing and furnishing establishment of E. D. Harkness. In 1866 he returned to "his old love" by being installed at Findlay as manager in the shoe store of George F. Tanner and retained this responsibility until January, 1893. In that year Mr. Hirschberger purchased the entire stock and good will of the business he had been supervising and has since

been the sole proprietor. His previous experience, besides an inherited adaptability for this branch of trade, has enabled Mr. Hirschberger to increase the original business and carry it on to the entire success of a large line of patrons. He enjoys general esteem in the business world and is regarded as a merchant of integrity as well as a citizen of good repute. In October, 1893, was solemnized the wedding of John F. Hirschberger and Miss Ella E., daughter of Thomas H. McCune, all of Findlay, where the ceremony was performed amid the congratulations of many friends. Mr. Hirschberger is a member of the two popular fraternities of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is an esteemed addition to each of these orders. His political affiliations are with the Democratic party and socially he and his wife enjoy the best that Findlay can afford.

T. C. BOYD.

T. C. Boyd comes from good old Dutch stock. The parents are both natives of Pennsylvania and the family has devoted itself for years to farming. The father, R. W. Boyd, was born July 22, 1822; the mother, Almira Ewing, in June, 1834. They were married about 1852. In 1856 they moved from Ashland county, this state, and for five years lived upon various rented farms in Liberty township, this county. In 1861 they took hold of the eighty acres now the property of their son T. C. Boyd. The Half-Way House between Findlay and Macomb stood directly north across the road. Mr. Boyd kept his eye on that place and in 1868 he bought the establishment and the surrounding eighty acres. He not only wanted to use the land, but he wanted to put an end to the liquor business there. He tore down the hotel and later, in 1887, erected a fine, brick residence in its stead. Mr. Boyd has served his township in the office of trustee and as justice of the peace and has always been prominent in township affairs. Politically he sides with Republicans, and religiously he is a Presbyterian. At present writing (1902) he and his wife are living a quiet, retired life in Findlay. Of their nine children, four only reached maturity and are living to-day. They are: T. C., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Reed; Mrs. Etta Heimhoffer, and Mrs. Jennie Mitchel.

T. C. Boyd was born in Ashland county, this state, November 5, 1855; but has lived in this county since he was six months old. He has taken kindly to the occupation of his forefathers and followed agriculture with considerable success. On his and the adjoining eighty acres of his father there are now forty oil wells, yielding a fine income.

On November 5, 1879, he married Miss Barbara, daughter of David and Catherine Sherrick, a young woman born in Liberty township in 1861. They have three children: Joseph M., born in 1880; Lois M., born in 1882, and Virgil, born in 1886.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd belong to the Presbyterian church and he is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias. In political belief and interest Mr. Boyd is an earnest supporter of the principles of the Republican party.

ALBERT J. THOMAS.

In various lines of employment the subject of this biography has been well known in Hancock county, since his business career began twenty-five years ago. He has been a school teacher, carpenter, salesman of threshing-mashines, agricultural implement dealer, tile manufacturer and finally a producer of oil, in which last capacity he has operated largely and successfully for some years past. During this period of multiplied employments, Mr. Thomas has gained a well recognized standing in the industrial world as one of the county's enterprising citizens. He inherits Welsh blood, strengthened by Irish admixture, a combination that usually results in vigorous and energetic progeny who are able to make their way in the world wherever their lot is cast. Originating in Wales, the family emigrated to the north of Ireland and located in county Down. There James Thomas was born in 1792, married Mary A. Campbell in 1814, and with her emigrated two years later to America. After spending a few years at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, he settled in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1822, remained there until 1835, and then located permanently in Biglick township, Hancock county, where he died in 1879. His eleven children all grew to maturity, and six of these are still living as follows: Samuel B.; Robert; Ann, wife of Henry Shroy; Joseph; Nathaniel and Martha. Robert Thomas, second of the surviving children, was born in Wayne count, Ohio, January 1, 1827, came with his parents to Hancock county at the age of eight years, and since reaching maturity has been engaged in farming. In 1849 he married Dilly A., daughter of Solomon Little, had seven children, and the five of these who still survive are thus named: Albert J. and Alvin S. (twins), Alice R., Elsworth C. and Edgar P. Nathan H., the oldest, died April 9, 1899, and Libbie M. died September 1, 1887. The mother died December 23, 1898, but the father is still living, having sold his farm and moved to Findlay in April, 1902.

Albert J. Thomas, eldest of the survivors and one of the twin brothers above mentioned, was born on the farm in Biglick township, Hancock coun-

ty, Ohio, January 14, 1856. During his boyhood he received the ordinary farm training and education, but later had the benefit of a six months' course at the Normal school in Findlay. When eighteen years old he began to learn the carpenter's trade, which furnished him employment during three summers, and upon reaching his majority he engaged in school teaching in his native township. During the seven succeeding years, he continued his pedagogic labors in winter, and spent the summers and falls in selling threshing machines, or such other work as could be obtained. In the spring of 1880, in partnership with M. C. Sheraden, he built the first tile factory established in Biglick township, which was carried on by the firm for eleven years. At the end of that period Mr. Thomas embarked in the agricultural implement business at Findlay, in connection with I. C. Porter, and he continued in this line for two years. In 1893 he engaged as traveling salesman for the Flint & Walling Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of mills, pumps and kindred articles at Kendallville, Indiana. In 1894, however, Mr. Thomas returned to Findlay and renewed the work of drilling water wells, which he carried on extensively throughout Hancock county. In the spring of 1896 he went into the oil business, leasing lands and drilling wells, and this has been his occupation up to the present time. The first twelve wells he drilled proved to be what is known to the craft as "dry-holes," but he "struck oil" in his thirteenth venture. In fact he has been one of the most successful of the many oil producers in the Findlay field and is able to show good results from his years of arduous labor. Mr. Thomas has never married but belongs to the class who rejoice in "single blessedness" and freedom from matrimonial restraint. He is, however, a man of regular habits and upright life, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in good standing, and active in connection with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he is a Republican.

SHELDON WOODRUFF.

Sheldon Woodruff resides in Eagle township, Hancock county, upon the farm on which he was born, July 10, 1842, his parents being Elijah and Sarah (Walters) Woodruff. The father was a native of Ohio, born in Pickaway county, July 28, 1806, and the mother's birth occurred in Jefferson county, Kentucky, December 17, 1819. She was brought to Hancock county by her parents about 1827. All the grandparents of our subject died in comparatively early life with the exception of the maternal grandmother, who reached an advanced age and passed away during the boyhood of Shel-

don Woodruff. Her only living child is Margaret Doty, the wife of John Doty, Sr., of Jackson township. The parents of our subject were married in Eagle township, October 16, 1836. He had two brothers, Adam and William, who also settled in Hancock county and both died here, the latter many years ago. There were also two sisters who became residents of the county—Polly Ann, the wife of Peter George, and Hannah, who married Bonaparte Martz. Both of them were well advanced in years when called to their final rest.

Elijah Woodruff had about thirty acres of land at the time of his marriage and in the cabin home on that farm his two eldest children were born. He later built the home in which Sheldon Woodruff is now living and in it the other children first opened their eyes to the light of day. He also erected a large farmhouse in the same year, but it was afterward destroyed by fire. The father entered his first land from the government and our subject now has in his possession three old parchment deeds, according him the ownership of property. The first is for one hundred and sixty acres of state land, which had been granted to the state to aid in building canals, and the deed was signed by Governor Allen Trimble, in October, 1829. Another deed for forty acres was signed May 6, 1835, and bears the signature of President Andrew Jackson. A third for forty acres, dated April 18, 1837, was signed by Martin Van Buren. Taking up his abode in a little log cabin built in the primitive manner of pioneer times Elijah Woodruff began the development of his farm and placed about sixty acres of his land under cultivation. He died May 20, 1865, and his wife passed away March 30, 1886, at the age of sixty-six years, three months and three days. After the death of her first husband she married John Bickelhaupt, with whom she lived about two years and then returned to the old homestead, where her remaining days were passed. She was very devoted to her family and was an earnest Christian woman, who became one of the charter members of the United Brethren church at Pleasant Grove. Mr. Woodruff was a Democrat in his political affiliations but was never an office seeker. In their family were three children who died in childhood, while five reached years of maturity and are still living. These are: Benjamin, who owns a part of the old homestead; Samantha S., the wife of R. M. Henderson, of Dunkirk, Ohio; Angeline, the wife of John S. Bishop; and William, who also owns a part of the old homestead.

The other member of the family is Sheldon Woodruff of this review. He was reared upon the old farm and has spent his entire life here. The three brothers purchased the interest of the other heirs in the property and

all lived together during the mother's lifetime, but after her death the property was divided, each taking a share of the farm. Mr. Woodruff has always carried on agricultural pursuits, and his land returns a good tribute for the care and labor he bestows upon it.

On the 18th of February, 1864, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Woodruff and Miss Missouri Alspach, a daughter of George W. and Elizabeth (Zoll) Alspach, of Eagle township. Mrs. Woodruff was born in this township, January 17, 1846, and by her marriage has become the mother of four children. Ella is the wife of E. J. Pepple, of Jackson township. Harry, also of Eagle township, married Matilda Hartman, and has two children, Lola and Orval. Floyd, who operates his uncle Benjamin's farm, married Jennie Hoy, and they have one child, Farrell. Ollie, who cultivates his father's home farm, wedded Lillie Decker.

Mr. Woodruff is a Democrat and has some times served as a delegate to the conventions of his party, but has never had any aspirations for office, though he was trustee for six years. He attends and supports the Pleasant Grove United Brethren church, and devotes his life to the farm, whereupon he has spent his entire days, so that the place is endeared to him through the associations of his boyhood and manhood.

JOHN W. GRIMM.

Though practicing at the Findlay bar only about twelve years, the subject of this sketch has not only done well but may be said to have achieved a notable success, considering the competition he has had to meet. Besides the business transacted in the ordinary channels he has held the posititon of deputy probate judge for seven years, and is at present referee in bankruptcy for the northern district of Ohio. Besides his industry and energy as a practitioner and the conscientious discharge of such judicial positions as he has held, Mr. Grimm has the recommendation of geniality in temperament and courtesy of address which brings its possessor in easy touch with the multitude and gains friends from widely diverse elements. These qualities make him one of the most popular, as he certainly is one of the most progressive, members of the local bar.

The Grimm family seem to have been long settled in Pennsylvania and well represented in the industries as well as the professions. John Grimm, grandfather of the Findlay attorney, was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1814, spent his life as a farmer and grist-miller, and died in his native state in 1886. His son, Joseph Grimm, became in after life a noted

minister of the Church of God, and owing to his evangelical peregrinations was known over a wide scope of country in different states. He was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1837, was ordained at an early age and spent his whole life in the cause of religion, not ceasing to labor "in the vineyard" until death claimed him in October, 1900, while a resident of Allegheny county, of his native state. This reverend gentleman owned and for many years successfully operated a farm in Moon township, Beaver county, Pennsylvania. He married early and became the father of eight children, the second of whom was John W. Grimm, whose birth occurred at Freedom, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1860. The children of itinerant preachers are apt to see considerable of the world, as their fathers travel from place to place and stay nowhere for any great length of time. By this process of moving around continuously, young Grimm's rearing and education were not lacking in such variety as could be given by frequent change of place, but for this very reason doubtless possessed additional elements of advantage. The boy grew up to manhood mostly in western Pennsylvania, and among the more important schools attended were Mt. Pleasant Institute and the State Normal at Edinboro, both in Pennsylvania. He taught school for a number of terms in the public schools of Beaver county, Pennsylvania. After Mr. Grimm came to Findlay in 1886 he entered the college of that place and put in two years of hard study by way of a finishing course. Upon leaving this institution in 1888 he immediately entered upon the study of law under Theodore Totten, and made such headway as to be admitted to the bar in 1890. He opened an office in Findlay without delay, but was hardly well started in general business when, in 1891, he was appointed deputy probate judge, the duties of which position occupied the principal part of his time until 1895. At the present time he is one of the referees in bankruptcy for the northern district of Ohio, with headquarters at Findlay. Soon after coming to Ohio, Mr. Grimm purchased a farm in Hardin county, and has been much interested in Ohio farming ever since.

In 1889 Mr. Grimm was married, at Findlay, to Miss Alice, daughter of William B. Miller, and they have five children: Bernice, DeWitt Miller, Helen, John and Flora. W. B. Miller, the father of Mrs. Grimm, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is one of the pioneers of Hancock county, having now reached the age of seventy-eight years. He is a farmer and stock raiser by occupation, and is one of the leading Republicans of the county. Mr. Grimm is also one of the leading Republicans of Hancock county and also of northwestern Ohio. He has for many years attended nearly all of the conventions of his party, both state and local, and has been a member of

the central and executive committees for many years. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Masonic order, Findlay Lodge, No. 227; of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 400; and of the Modern Woodmen of America, Bishop Camp No. 4678, of Findlay. He and his family are leading members of the First Presbyterian church of this city.

DANIEL WALTER.

The subject of this sketch, a prosperous and much esteemed farmer of Blanchard township, is descended from German parents who emigrated while young and became pioneers of Hancock county at an early period of its history. Peter Walter was born in Germany in 1796, and served six years in the army of his native land during his early manhood. He married Anna M. Ginder, whose birth occurred May 6, 1819, in Switzerland. He made his way directly to Ohio, where Mr. Walter purchased eighty acres of virgin forest in Blanchard township. It took much hard work to "whip this land into shape," but by assiduous labor and wise management this worthy couple eventually brought their farm to a high state of cultivation, and, as prosperity smiled upon them, by degrees added one hundred and sixty acres more to their estate. Peter Walter came to this country extremely poor, and all his accumulations were due to the efforts of himself and wife, who proved a most valuable assistant during the period of struggle. They finally obtained a firm foothold financially and were much esteemed socially, Mr. Walter himself being an industrious, unassuming man of the strictest integrity and honesty. He was a man of remarkable physique, robust and possessed of an unusually strong constitution, qualities which stood him in good stead for the hard work necessary at the beginning of his career. He was a consistent member of the United Brethren church and model of uprightness and good morals in all the affairs of life. Peter Walter ended his long and honored career in 1875, at the age of seventy-nine years. He was married three times, and all of his wives are now deceased. Their family consisted of five children, of whom three are still living and all residents of Hancock county.

One of these survivors is Daniel Walter, subject of this sketch, who was born on his father's farm in Blanchard township, Hancock county, January 9, 1843. He was reared to farm work while getting the benefit of such educational opportunities as were afforded by the common schools, and has devoted all of his adult life to agricultural pursuits. At the death of his father he inherited the home farm, his holdings now consisting of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land in two tracts. This property has been managed

Daniel Walters and wife

and operated with skill and good judgment, being devoted to stock raising and the standard crops of the latitude where located. Mr. Walter has greatly improved the appearance as well as the quality of his land since taking charge, the most noticeable changes being the erection of commodious buildings of modern construction, adapted to the needs of up-to-date agriculture. He is practical in his methods and has inherited the fine qualities which brought such marked success to his lamented father.

December 20, 1866, Mr. Walter was married to Miss Louisa J., daughter of Daniel and Phebe Flick, whose birth occurred in Union township, June 7, 1847. Her parents were old settlers of Hancock county, who acquired ownnership of one hundred and sixty acres of land and were much esteemed in the circle of their acquaintance. The union of Daniel and Louisa Walter proved prosperous and happy, their five children being reared in health and strength and all now married with the exception of the youngest. Mary E., the eldest daughter, was born August 9, 1868, married W. C. Elsea in March, 1891, and has two children, Bernice E. and Walter C. Clara A., the second daughter, was born February 7, 1872, and married Dr. E. A. Powell, by whom she has one child, Avery D. Emmet C., the third child and only son, was born May 12, 1874, and married August 16, 1896, to Jettie Bish, and has one child, Velma Lucile. Ida V., who was born April 29, 1880, was united in marriage with W. L. Daymon on the 10th of November, 1898, and had one child, Marie, now deceased. Eva W., the youngest of the children, whose birth occurred January 28, 1885, still remains at home. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are both members of the United Brethren church. In politics he is a Democrat.

HAMILTON L. RAMSEY.

It is a pleasure to enter in this work a brief review of the genealogical history and personal career of the popular and efficient chief of police of the city of Findlay. His life has been one of continuous application and he has gained prestige as an able and discriminating business man and official, while he has so ordered his life as to retain the respect and esteeem of those with whom he has been thrown in contact. He has passed practically his entire life in Ohio, and from his youth has depended upon his own resources, so that he is thoroughly appreciative of the dignity of honest toil and is known as a whole-souled, tolerant and genial gentleman.

Back to that cradle of much of our national history, the Old Dominion state, must we turn in tracing the genealogy of Hamilton Lee Ramsey, and he himself is a native of that patrician old commonwealth, having been

born in Augusta county, Virginia, on the 16th of September, 1861. In 1865 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Washington Court House, Ohio, where they maintained their home about five years, then removing to Bucyrus, in which place our subject received the major portion of his early education. At the expiration of about six years they removed to another point in Crawford county and a year later to Shelby, which was the family home for two years, and thereafter they resided for intervals of greater or less length in other parts of the state, while in 1882 our subject came to Findlay, and has ever since been a resident of Hancok county. Here he was employed at farm work for two years, and then turned his attention to the building of oil rigs in the oil fields of this locality, having been identified with this line of work from the time of the discovery of oil in Findlay up to April, 1900, when he was appointed to his present responsible office as chief of police. He has brought to bear marked energy and judgment in the discharge of the duties of his office and has made his department a model of efficiency, safeguarding the city and adequately handling such malefactors as seek to infringe law and order. He is a thorough disciplinarian, but has the respect and high regard of his men and the confidence of the general public. He is also popular in fraternal circles, being identified with the local organization of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

In th year 1888, at Dunkirk, Ohio, Chief Ramsey was united in marriage to Miss Florence Alexander, the daughter of Joseph B. and Charlottie (Smith) Alexander, and they have a pleasant home at 218 West Main Cross. The chief is familiarly known by his second name, Lee.

Rev. Osbert Hamilton Ramsey, the father of our subject, was born in Augusta county, Virginia, in 1829, and was there reared and educated. He was a wheelwright by trade and followed this vocation for a number of years. At the outbreak of the Civil war he held commission as first lieutenant in the Virginia militia, and was given the same rank in the Confederate service, becoming a member of Company F, Fifth Regiment of Infantry, which was assigned to Stonewall Jackson's brigade. He served as first lieutenant until the spring of 1862, when he was detailed to superintend the manufacture of saddles for the cavalry, in which connection he was located in turn at several different points, passing the greater portion of the time at Clarksville, West Virginia, where he remained until February, when he came to the north, securing a position in a machine shop at Pittsburg Landing, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a year and then removed to Washington Court House, Ohio. In 1872 he entered the ministry of the

United Brethren church and rendered effective service to this denomination until 1886, when he united with the Wesleyan Methodist conference, with which he has since been identified as a zealous and devoted clergyman, being now located in Greersville, Knox county, Ohio. In the year 1842, in Virginia, he was united in marriage to Miss Ann Brown, who still survives. They became the parents of six children, of whom two sons and one daughter survive, namely: Augusta V.; the widow of John W. Michener, of Delaware, Ohio; H. Lee, the subject of this sketch; and William H., who is a clerk in the department of justice in Washington, D. C.

HAVILAH L. PARKER.

This gentleman, who is one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists in Hancock county, is the renter of a valuable farm in Marion township, and his management of the estate is marked by the scientific knowledge and skill which characterizes the modern farmer. He was born at Findlay and throughout his active business life has been prominently identified with the agricultural and industrial interests of Hancock county. The date of his birth was April 28, 1853. He was reared and educated in his native town, and has been a continuous resident of the county ever since. His parents were George W. and Margaret (Anderson) Parker. Mr. Parker was a native of Virginia, while Mrs. Parker was born in Wayne county, Ohio. The Parkers are of German extraction, while the Andersons are natives of the Emerald Isle.

Havilah L. Parker operates the Burnes farm, consisting of ninety-seven acres of land, on the Sandusky road, two miles east of the city of Findlay. He is a man of many fine traits of character, a member in good standing in the Methodist Episcopal church of Findlay, a member of the Protected Home Circle, a fraternal organization, and a gentleman in whom his neighbors have implicit confidence. His married life dates from January 7, 1879, when he was united to Miss Irene, daughter of George W. and Emily Graham, of Findlay, and to this most felicitous union twelve children have been born, nine of whom are living:—Nellie B., born November 23, 1881, a successful and popular teacher in the Findlay public schools; Lemuel O., born July 20, 1883; Clark L., born November 4, 1886, a student in college at Findlay; Ruby M., born May 3, 1890; Willard H., born December 7, 1891; Roy C., born February 17, 1894; Florence, born July 20, 1895; Helen L., born July 18, 1898; and Clara F., born August 9, 1899. Lemuel O., after finishing at Findlay College, received from the board

of agriculture a free scholarship in the Ohio State University, and is now there. He is very popular and is making his way by his industry. Mrs. Parker, the mother of these children, is a native of Big Lick township of this county, where she was born October 21, 1858. George W. Parker, the father of the subject of this review, was born in Virginia in 1825, came to this county in 1849, located at Findlay and died in March, 1899. He was a cabinet and chair maker, and for many years was in partnership with Mr. J. R. Clark, now a prominent business man of Findlay. He was a man of great force of character and of considerable influence in the community in which he resided, being connected with much of the public service. He was a firm believer in the principles of faith as enunciated by the Methodist Episcopal creed, and held membership during his entire life in the church of that name in Findlay. He was an active member of the organization, having for long years prior to his death been a class leader. His family consisted of seven children, five of whom are now living, namely: Havilah L., the subject of this review; Jonathan A.; Mary C.; Phila J.; and George W. The father died March 4, 1899 and the mother of the family, who was a lady of fine intelligence and many estimable traits of character, still lives at the age of seventy-three years. John Graham, grandfather of Mrs. Parker was a native of Virginia and one of the first pioneers of Hancock county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land which still remain in the family. George W. Graham, his son and father of Mrs. Parker, is living in retirement at Findlay, after a successful career as a farmer.

THOMAS H. CLYMER.

Thomas H. Clymer, a young man of superior business ability and executive force, whose labors are bringing to him creditable and gratifying success in industrial circles, is a native son of the Buckeye state. His birth occurred in Union township, Hancock county, on the 16th of November, 1861, and he is a grandson of Francis and Susan Clymer, who removed from Fairfield county, Ohio, to Hancock county in 1834, being accompanied by their family, and the father of our subject was one of the number. Francis Clymer entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Union township, one hundred and eight acres of which is now owned by his son David, and he was one of the sturdy old pioneers of the commonwealth. With his family, consisting of six children, three of whom are now living, he endured the privations incident to a new and unsettled country, and he nobly bore his share in its subsequent development and improvement. Both he and

his wife lived to a good old age, and in their death the community suffered the loss of true and upright citizens.

David Clymer, the father of him whose name introduces this review, is now the only member of his father's family residing in Hancock county. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1828, and in his youth accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, where he has won an enviable place among the progressive and influential agriculturists of his community. His landed possessions consist of about eight hundred acres, and he is recognized as one of the largest real estate owners in Hancock county. His career has ever been such as to warrant the trust and confidence of the business world, for he has always conducted all transactions on the strictest principles of honor and integrity, and at the same time his devotion to the public good is unquestioned. Mr. Clymer was united in marriage to Emily Cook, also a native of Fairfield county, where her birth occurred in 1830, and this union was blessed by the birth of eight children, five of whom are now living, and all are residents of Hancock county. They have all been provided with excellent farms, the result of the father's forethought and enterprise. In political matters the Clymers have long been allied with Democratic principles.

Thomas H. Clymer, the immediate subject of this review, was reared and educated in the township of his nativity, and here he has spent his entire life. After completing his studies he assisted his father in the work of the home farm until his marriage, after which he purchased and removed to his present place. He is a young man of exceptional promise, and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have chosen him as a member of the school board, in which capacity he has served for seven years. For his wife he chose Miss Nora, the daughter of Henry Aurand. Their marriage was celebrated in 1884, and four children have come to brighten and bless their home,—Jessie, Estella, Lewis and Grace. Mrs. Clymer was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, in 1866. The family are held in high esteem in Hancock county, and their many excellent qualities render them favorites with a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Clymer are members of the United Brethren church.

WILBUR F. TRUESLOW.

The above named gentleman has devoted all the active years of his business life to the carpet trade, in which he has been employed in various cities and states and is a recognized expert in that line. He has also risen to prom-

inence in the political world at Findlay, where he has long been connected with public affairs, and at present holds the position of president of the city council. His father, George W. Trueslow, was born at Malden, now West Virginia, in 1813, and after reaching manhood removed to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he accumulated a fortune amounting to near one hundred thousand dollars in the mercantile business. He was intensely Union in his sentiments, however, and when the Civil war opened found it impossible to live in the hotbed of secession where he found himself, the result being that he had to leave at a sacrifice of all his hard-earned wealth. He therefore fled with his family to the more congenial atmosphere of Illinois, and about 1861 enlisted, at Jacksonville, in Company F, Eighty-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, of which he was elected captain. He served gallantly with his command until ill health compelled his resignation in December, 1864. In 1866 he removed to Hannibal, Missouri, where he engaged in the lumber business, which he carried on until his death in 1876. About 1850 he was married at Gallipolis, Ohio, to Mary A. Jewell, by whom he had three children: Alice, deceased wife of George W. Hugo; Wilbur F.; and Silas, who died in the nineteenth year of his age.

Wilbur F. Trueslow, second of the children, was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, January 29, 1853, and was consequently eight years old when his parents fled to Illinois to escape the fury of the hot-headed "secesh." While the father was absent in the army his family continued to reside at Jacksonville, and later, as previously stated, accompanied him to Missouri. Wilbur F. attended school at Hannibal, and remained there until 1871, when he went to St. Louis and secured employment in the carpet store of Henry Barr. He retained this position about six years and then entered the carpet store of Albert Gall at Indianapolis. After a period of five years in the Indiana capital Mr. Trueslow's next move was to Cincinnati, where he took service with Lowry & Goble, and remained with that well known firm of carpet dealers until 1888. In June of that year he transferred his scene of operations to Findlay, where he has since been engaged in laying carpets for the large firms in that city.

Mr. Trueslow is rather fond of the excitement of politics, and has long been active on the Republican side in the political battles that have made Ohio famous. In 1898 he was elected to the city council from the seventh ward of Findlay, and was endorsed by a re-election in 1900. At the organization of the council in that year he was chosen vice president, and several months later, upon the resignation of the president, succeeded to that place by election, and in April, 1900, was elected to succeed himself in the same honorable

position. He has traveled over a vast amount of territory for a man of moderate means, having visited every state and territory of the Union with the exception of the far eastern states. He has made the trip from Denver to Pike's Peak, by government train, this being before railroads had invaded that then wild country, and one incident of his travels worthy of note is that when at Charleston, South Carolina, he went by ferry to Sullivan's Island and stood upon the gun which fired the first shot at Major Anderson's men in Fort Sumter. As he thus stood upon that gun in Fort Moultre, looking across the channel at the stars and stripes once again waving over Fort Sumter, his remarks were: "Oh if this island could have sunk before that shot was fired." Mr. Trueslow's fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias, his membership being in Justus H. Rathbone Lodge, No. 400, of which he is a past chancellor, also past county deputy and a past district deputy, and he is also a member of the uniform and endowment ranks. His lodge now has a membership of three hundred and ninety.

In December, 1890, Mr. Trueslow was married to Jessie D. Wentz, a daughter of Jacob A. and Elizabeth Wentz. She was born in Blackford county, Indiana, in 1867, and came with her parents in 1874 to Findlay, Ohio, her father purchasing a farm four miles north of that city, where they resided for a number of years, finally moving to Findlay, making this their permanent home. Mr. and Mrs. Trueslow have two children,—Alice E., born February 10, 1892; and Myron W., born November 13, 1893.

JACOB GRESSLY.

Hancock county has no more honored or highly esteemed citizen than the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He was born in Hocking county, Ohio, on the 18th of February, 1842, his parents being Henry and Annie (Whisler) Gressly. The former, who was born in Germany, in 1809, was a son of Jacob Gressly, who emigrated from that country to America in 1829, being accompanied on the journey by his six children,—Barabara, Henry, Jacob, Catherine, Charles and Margaret. Jacob Gressly first took up his abode in Fairfield county, Ohio, but a short time afterward removed to Pickaway county, this state, where he spent the remainder of his life, his life's labors having been ended in death in 1857. His son Henry came to Hancock county in 1846, locating on a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres in Union township, which he placed under an excellent state of cultivation, and to this tract he subsequently added one hundred and forty acres more, making it one of the valuable homesteads of Union town-

ship. He was well versed in all the branches of agriculture, and his life was characterized by energy, perseverance and hard work, qualities which won for him a high and well merited degree of success. At one time he was the owner of over seven hundred acres of land, and was long recognized as one of the most progressive farmers of his community. He was united in marriage to Annie Whisler, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1818, being a daughter of Michael Whisler. This union was blessed with the following children: Jacob, Rebecca, Sarah (deceased), Loretta J., Samuel and two who died in infancy, The living ones are all residents of Hancock county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gressly were worthy members for many years of the Evangelical church. The father died in 1891 and the mother in 1882.

Jacob Gressly, the immediate subject of this review, was early inured to the work of the farm, and when the time came for him to inaugurate independent action he chose the vocation of farming, which has been his life occupation. In 1871 he located on the farm on which he now resides, where he has erected a substantial and commodious residence, suitable barns and outbuildings, and has placed his fields under an excellent state of cultivation. He is one of the representative citizens of Hancock county, and has achieved a most worthy success. His public spirit is such that he always aids every movement which in his judgment promises good to the people at large, and for one year he efficiently served his township as its trustee. The marriage of Mr. Gressly was celebrated in 1865, when Miss Martha West became his wife. She was born in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1845, and is a daughter of John and Catherine West. By her marriage she became the mother of the the following children: Theodocia (deceased), Ferdinand W., Ivy A., Pearl J. and Bessie E. Mrs. Gressly and her daughters are members of the Church of God, and the family are among the well known and highly respected residents of Hancock county. In politics Mr. Gressly is a Democrat. The improvements on the farm of Mr. Gressly are among the best in this party of Hancock county.

JEFFERSON C. McRILL.

Among the most promising and successful of the younger generation of Hancock county farmers is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He comes of a family which has been represented in the county for seventy years, whose members have always stood well and enjoyed high consideration among their neighbors. A brief review, given in chronological order, will show who they have been and something of what they have done to bring this county to

J. B. McNeill & Wife

the front. Elijah McRill, who was born January 18, 1789, married Rebecca England in early manhood and came with her to Hancock county in 1832. In the common parlance of that day, he "entered" one hundred and sixty acres of land in Washington township, where he put up a round-log house in the pioneer style, to be replaced a few years later by a more pretentious structure built of hewed logs, which was then considered somewhat "stylish." Elijah was a hard-working man, of simple and unpretentious manners, who belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church and tried to do his duty in all the relations of life. In the course of time he sold his farm and led a retired life until the final summons came to him in 1879. Of his nine children only two are now living. B. J. McRill, the eldest of his surviving children, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, October 27, 1823, and was nine years of age when his parents came to Hancock county, where he has ever since made his home. At the age of nineteen he made his first purchase of real estate, consisting of forty acres, to which he kept adding until his present holdings embrace one hundred and fourteen acres of good land. He is one of the veteran educators of the county, having taught school for over forty-five years. In this way he contributed much toward the welfare of the county by that surest road to civilization which is found in the education of the people. During his long residence in the county of seventy years, which gives him right to the honored title of "one of the oldest settlers," Mr. McRill has enjoyed and fully deserved the confidence and esteem of his neighbors for two generations. At various times he has held the office of justice of the peace, assessor and trustee of his township, the duties of all which positions were ever discharged with fidelity and integrity. A faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was class-leader for many years, he always aimed to practice what he preached, and the example he set before the rising generation was wholesome and worthy of imitation. His fraternal relations were confined to membership in the old and useful order of Odd Fellows, of which he has long been a shining light and active member. Mr. McRill's first marriage was with Miss Fannie Carpenter, who bore him two children, but these, as well as their mother, have long since passed from earth. His second marriage was in 1850 with Rosanna Zimmerman, who was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1831. The children of this second marriage were Amanda J.; J. C.; Sarah A. C.; A. A.; R. W.; Nelson A., deceased; and Elijah E.

Jefferson C. Zimmerman, the second in order of birth of the above enumerated children, was born in Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, March 3, 1858, and grew to manhood on his father's farm. After the usual preliminary attendance at the district school he entered business for himself at a very

early age by the purchase of his present farm of seventy-two acres in Big Lick township, where he has since resided. He cultivated this place in the usual way, devoting it to general farming, until the year 1901, when he was lucky enough to "strike oil." The result of this happy discovery was seven producing oil wells, which are now in full operation and bringing a handsome revenue to their owner. Mr. McRill well deserves the success and good fortune with which he has met, as he has been painstaking and industrious, attentive to his business and in every way a worthy citizen. The only office Mr. McRill has held was that of justice of the peace, of which he was the incumbent from 1893 until 1899, and this important trust was discharged in an eminently satisfactory manner.

April 6, 1886, Mr. McRill was happily wedded to Miss Ella C., daughter of Solomon and Rebecca (Neff) Eberhart, born in Steuben county, Indiana, in 1863, who has proved a most affectionate wife and mother. Her father was a native of Michigan, a farmer by occupation, and died in the prime of life. The children consist of two daughters: Myrtle I., born July 7, 1887, and Hazel G., whose birth occurred September 11, 1889. Since 1888 the family have been members of the Christian Union church, in which Mr. McRill holds the position of trustee.

WARNER COONTZ.

One of the most substantial and prominent farmers of Hancock county, who is now living retired from activity, in Findlay, Ohio, is Warner Coontz, whose pleasant home is located at No. 901 Washington avenue, in this city.

The birth of Mr. Coontz occurred April 2, 1826, in Jefferson county, Virginia, and he is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Coontz, who came to Ohio when our subject was quite small. His parents located first in Fairfield county. Jacob Coontz was born in 1734 and died June 28, 1833, in Fairfield county. His wife was born in 1746 and survived until February 13, 1855. They had a family of seven children, the three survivors being: Warner, Sarah and Emanuel. Jacob Coontz was a man of education and culture, learned both in the German and the English language, and was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church.

In every way our subject is a self-made man, the death of his father when he was but seven years of age, leaving him practically without a protector. However, the principles of right living had been instilled from earliest childhood, and the lessons learned then, and his inheritance of gentle blood from most estimable parents, have guided him safely through a long life. In

1865 he came to Hancock county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, to which he has at various times added until he now has four hundred and twenty acres, in three farms, one located in Liberty, one in Blanchard and the other in Marion townships, in addition to a valuable city property.

February 20, 1854, our subject was married to Miss Mary Hott, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, September 1, 1832, and died on January 27, 1899. The children of this union were: John, born January 17, 1855; Kate, June 26, 1856; Warner, Jr., born May 17, 1864, and now a resident of Greeley, Colorado; and William, born August 25, 1866, who is a physician of prominence, practicing in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Coontz is a member of the First Methodist church of Findlay and one of the liberal contributors to its support. In 1888 he gave up practical farming and since that time has been an esteemed resident of Findlay. He worked hard in his early days and is now in a condition to thoroughly enjoy the declining years which his friends hope will be many in number.

THOMAS FLICK.

As far back as 1833, John and Elizabeth (Fox) Flick left their native place in Fairfield county and took up their abode on a tract of land in Hancock county, situated in Union township. This land, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, was obtained from the government and at the time of the purchase was decidedly wild and swampy. But pioneers were not to be discouraged by little things like this and the new arrivals set resolutely to work to see what kind of home they could extract from this "lodge in the wilderness." John Flick was really a great acquisition to the community at the time he arrived on the scene. Blacksmiths were always in demand in pioneer times and John was one of the best of his craft, strong, sturdy, industrious and skillful. There was soon plenty of demand both for his time and talent to shoe horses, re-tire wagons, mend tools and do all the other odds and ends characteristic of a cross-roads smithy. Between jobs of this kind, John worked in clearing his rather unpromising farm and in course of time had his swamp fairly well drained, the underbrush grubbed out and the land fit for cultivation. By his combined pursuits of farming and blacksmithing, working all day and part of the nights, John Flick finally reached the time when he could take things easier, having a competence laid by for a rainy day. The truth is that he was a model man as well as a very deserving one, as all knew who pulled the latch string on the door of his humble cabin. He

closed his busy and blameless career in 1868, when about sixty-five years old, and about thirteen years later his faithful wife Elizabeth joined him "on the other shore." Of the eight children borne to this worthy couple, five still live and all are residents of Hancock county but one, who lives in Indiana.

Thomas Flick, the third surviving son of the pioneer blacksmith above described, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 18, 1832, and was just a year old when introduced by his parents to the swamps of Hancock county. He grew up on the old homestead in Union township, attended the local schools and became acquainted with all those duties which fall to the lot of a boy on the farm. When he reached manhood, therefore, he was well qualified for the business which he entered upon forthwith and has continued in throughout the years of his adult life. He has had his ups and downs and changed homes a good many times before he found the place to suit him, but through it all made more or less gain and is justified now in regarding his life as a success in its entirety. His first purchase consisted of sixty acres, on which he resided three years. This was disposed of in 1856 and the proceeds invested in a tract of eighty acres, on which he lived three years and sold to move upon another farm of similar size. He remained on this place twelve years and in 1881 bought the farm of eighty-eight acres in Union township which constitutes his present homestead.

February 18, 1853, Mr. Flick was married to Sarah, daughter of Henry and Magaret Deeds. Mrs. Flick's parents were the first settlers of Union township, Hancock county, where she was born April 14, 1836. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Flick are William, Henry, Samantha, Ursula, Minerva, Leander, Margaret S. and Eliza, deceased. The parents are members of the United Brethren church and no family in Union township are more highly esteemed than the Flicks.

FRANCIS M. STORTS.

There is no more beautiful custom in civilization than that manifested by thought for our dead. "See that my grave is kept green," is sometimes upon flippant lips with little meaning but underlying it runs a current deep and strong and lasting as the ages. Cremation is faultless in theory—reason compels us to its endorsement. But its slow growth in the public mind is evidence of the fact that custom's laws are not easily broken; centuries hence the green sward and flowers of Dame Nature will continue to minister in sweet fragrance to the spirits of our dead.

Francis M. Storts is superintendent of the Fountain Cemetery, which

is situated on a beautiful site of gentle sloping and well kept ground. He is a genius in his line. He does all his own planning as to landscape, raises all his plants and flowers, and so tasteful are the arrangements that the eye is captivated by the beautiful and picturesque scene. His plots are tastefully laid out, his grounds are clean and inviting, while his walks are models of perfection.

Mr. Storts was born in Perry county, Ohio, April 5, 1864, and was the son of William and Lucinda (Alexander) Storts. He passed his boyhood days quietly in his parents' home, and in the common schools acquired his elementary education. His young manhood was spent in the construction of railroads and telegraph lines. Having a taste, however, for the esthetic in nature, he subsequently became engaged in agricultural pursuits which he followed for a few years. In the spring of 1892 he took upon himself his present responsible office, the duties of which he has discharged with great acceptance to his employers, and to the public at large. The Fountain Cemetery was laid out in 1844, and now contains twenty-one and one-half acres, fifteen acres of which is already in use by the public. Mr. Storts is held in good favor in the community in which he resides, and he and his family are acceptable members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while he fraternizes with the Maccabees organization.

Mr. Storts was joined in marriage in 1887 to Miss Laura B. Levingston, and she has become the mother of six children, Lillie G., Cloe B., Verna B., Laura E., Edson F., and Hazel C. Mrs. Storts was born in Licking county, Ohio, in 1870, her family being among the pioneers of the Buckeye state.

Mr. Storts is a courteous officer in his responsible position, well informed and intelligent on general matters, and is a popular and highly respected citizen of his city, and as such well deserves representation in this volume.

WILLIAM BOLANDER.

It is with pleasure that the subject of this sketch is introduced into this work as a true son of Hancock county. Mr. Bolander is a man who believes that his native heath is good enough for him, and that there is no need of seeking opportunities in distant lands when so many lie at hand. He was born on a farm in Big Lick township, this county, in 1844, when this section of Ohio was very sparsely settled. He passed his earlier years in the country, acquiring his education in the country schools, and assisting on his father's farm. When the war broke out Mr. Bolander waited his opportunity and

when the call came for volunteers in Hancock county, immediately enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served three years and saw his country vindicated before he was mustered out. Some of the conflicts in which his company was engaged was Stone River, and those occurring during the campaign from Dalton to Atlanta and from there to Jonesboro, where he was severely wounded in the left thigh. He was sent to Atlanta for care, and soon after that to Chattanooga, where he was mustered out, in 1865. He immediately returned to Hancock county, where he has since resided.

In 1866 he was married to Sarah Crosley, and they have seven children. The same year he was married he moved to Findlay, the county seat. In 1892 he went into the meat business, in which he has been very successful.

Mr. Bolander is among the best known of the business men of the town and is a loyal citizen. He keeps his war service in mind and heart by membership in Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R., which includes so many of Findlay's prominent men. He has always been identified with the Republican party, in which his faith waxes stronger as the years go by. He is a member of the Evangelical church of Findlay.

HENRY J. BLYMYER.

During the first half of the nineteenth century there lived in Adams county, Pennsylvania, near the historic battlefield of Gettysburg, a worthy couple bearing the names of Joseph and Magdalene Blymyer. Joseph was a mechanic, and, finding business rather dull around his old home, decided to go further west in search of a betterment in his fortunes. Accordingly, in the year 1852, he packed up and with his wife and little ones joined the great tide of emigration then setting in toward Ohio. After reaching this state the family made their way to Hancock county, where the head of the house bought forty acres of land in Eagle township and settled temporarily on the same. Being a wagon-maker, however, and finding no opening for that business at his country home he soon went to Findlay and established himself in trade at that advantageous point. He was a good workman as well as an exemplary citizen and prospered fairly well during his residence in Findlay, until he moved to a farm in Eagle township, where he died in 1894. By his good wife, Magdalene, who died in 1881, he had five children, and the three of these now surviving all live in Hancock county.

Henry J. Blymyer, one of the children last mentioned, was born at the old Pennsylvania home near Gettysburg, in 1838, and was consequently only

fourteen years old when his parents made their journey to Ohio over half a century ago. From his father, as he grew up, he learned the wagon-maker's trade, and when sufficiently proficient assisted in the shop with the more difficult parts of the work. Later on he set up for himself in the business of making wagons, and prosecuted the trade diligently until 1881. At that time he saw an opportunity to make a good investment at Rawson, and closed a deal with George Burket for his mill in that town. Immediately thereafter Mr. Blymyer gave up his residence in Eagle township, as well as his wagon business, and assumed charge with his usual energy of his recent purchase at Rawson. The mill was constructed in 1852, and had been running most of the time for nearly thirty years, but was greatly improved and its facilities increased after Mr. Blymyer came into possession. He does sawing, planing, lathing and other kinds of work appropriate to his calling, his power consisting of a sixty horse-power engine, and his mill capacity being ten thousand feet of surface lumber per day. Besides his mill business, which is valuable, Mr. Blymyer owns other town property, and altogether may be regarded as in comfortable financial circumstances.

In 1864 Mr. Blymyer was united in marriage with Nancy Hoppis, and of their six children the four survivors are George, William, Nancy M. and Catherine. In 1892 Mr. Blymyer took his sons, George and William, into partnership, and the business is now carried on under the firm name of Blymyer & Sons. It is needless to say that the thriving business done by this enterprising firm is an important feature of the village where the plant is located. The busy hum of the saw, the puffs of the laboring locomotive, the shouting of the teamsters and the clash of the revolving machinery keep the people from forgetting that something is going on at Rawson.

JAMES C. DONNELL.

The gentleman whose name is mentioned above is one of the successful and prosperous business men of Findlay, Ohio. As he looks back over a long life of business activity he can attribute much of his success to the fact that he believed in the old saw, "stick to your last." For years he has been engaged in the oil business, having at the age of twenty begun operations in that line. He is at the present time vice president and general manager of the large corporation known as the Ohio Oil Company, with headquarters at Findlay. His wife and son are prominent members and most active workers in the First Presbyterian church of Findlay, and Mr. Donnell was a member of the building committee which has just finished the present commodious

and elegant structure, which cost sixty-three thousand dollars. Mr. Donnell was born in the village of Waterford, Erie county, Pennsylvania, on the 20th day of April, 1864. In this village he passed the period of youth, receiving such education as was then given in the local school. All his life he had heard the subject of oil discussed, not only about his own fireside, but on the streets of the village where he was reared, for it was in the center of the oil country. And while he was cognizant of the fact that a large number of operators in that industry had failed to make a success, he felt that in him the desire to try his own hand at it was present. He therefore at the age of twenty went to Titusville, Pennsylvania, and began operations. Here he worked with varied success, and although not making a vast amount of money he accumulated a most desirable business experience in that line which served him very well in later years. In 1887 he came to the new oil fields at Lima, Ohio, and the following year located in Findlay, where he has since resided and been engaged in business. In addition to his connection with the oil industry he is also a director of the commercial banking company of Bowling Green, Ohio, one of the strong financial institutions of the state. In 1887 he was instrumental in the organization of the present Ohio Oil Company, and later he with other strong men bought up the stock, and he is now in practical control of the corporation. He was first made a director of the company, but his business capacity was demonstrated to such an extent that in 1901 he was selected as the vice president and general manager. Mr. Donnell is a Republican in politics, although he gives very little attention to matters political. Fraternally he is a member of the Elks. The beautiful home of Mr. Donnell is presided over by a lady whose maiden name was Lizzie Weston Meeks, the daughter of the late Rev. J. A. Meeks, their marriage occurring in 1890 in the city of Findlay. Mr. Donnell had previous to this been joined in marriage to Sarah Flinn, who died in 1886, leaving one son, Otto Dewey Donnell. The father of Mrs. Donnell, the Rev. J. A. Meeks, was for a long time a most faithful and efficient pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Findlay. He died in July, 1887, and in memory of the beautiful life which he lived before his people, Mr. Donnell has had erected in the new church which has just been built, a most beautiful memorial window.

The Donnells are of Scotch origin, Mr. James Donnell, the father of our present subject, having been born in Scotland in the year 1813. He grew to manhood in the old country, where he also married, his wife's name having been Elizabeth Boyd, of Irish descent, and born in 1814. They came to America in 1853, and located in Waterford, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Donnell died in 1872. Mrs. Donnell still lives in the village of Waterford. These

parents raised a family of six children, of whom two sons did valiant service their country in the late Civil war. One of these, Robert Donnell, received wounds in the battle of Antietam which, together with other complications, were finally responsible for his death, which occurred in 1867, at the age of twenty-six years. He was a non-commissioned officer in the fifty-first Pennsylvania Regiment, and served in that regiment during the entire period of the war. William Donnell, another brother, was also in the service, being a member of a Pennsylvania regiment. He now resides in Erie county, Pennsylvania.

Upon the site of the old Presbyterian church at the corner of Main and Hardin streets has been erected a business block fifty by one hundred and twenty feet and three stories high. It was upon this ground that Rev. John A. Meeks, the father of Mrs. Donnell, helped to build the church in which he preached for many years.

SALAMIS BOWLBY.

A great many elements enter into the success of a man, no matter what occupation he follows, and in giving the history of the life of the subject of this sketch we must consider as important factors of his prosperity as a farmer his geniality, his large heartedness and also his natural aptitude for various mechanical arts which materially assist the farmer. No man in Amanda township is better known than Salamis Bowlby and it is eminently proper that his biography should be found in this historical volume.

His parents were John and Susan (Stahl) Bowlby, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Wayne county, Ohio. John was a shoemaker by trade. He took up his residence in Findlay, Hancock county, in 1847, and remained there until 1856, in which year he moved to Carey, Wyandot county. Two years later he passed from the scene of life's activities and his wife followed him in 1865. Seven children were born to this worthy couple and all are now living, Salamis and his sister, Mrs. Rheinhart, being the only ones in this county.

The birth of Salamis Bowlby occurred in Stark county, Ohio, August 23, 1844, and he grew to manhood partly in Findlay and partly in Carey. While still a boy in years, though with the courage and spirit of a man, the Civil war broke out and in the first year he enlisted, being enrolled in Company A, Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for a term of three years; and at the expiration of this period he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, to serve to the end of the war. He was promoted to the rank of

corporal and in 1865 was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Stone river, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, the Atlanta campaign, Nashville, Tennessee, and New Hope church. At the battle of Stone river, December 31, 1862, he was severely wounded and captured, being later taken to Richmond and held in prison for sixty-nine days. He was again wounded at the battle of Nashville. With the end of the strife he returned gladly to the peaceful pursuits of civil life and began farming on his own account by purchasing in 1866 forty acres of land in Big-lick township. This farm he exchanged in 1869 for another in the same township, and this latter he also sold and in 1873 bought his present place. He began with forty acres but has added to it until he now possesses a fertile and well tilled farm of sixty-five acres, and this he devotes to that most profitable branch of agriculture, "trucking." He has erected all the buildings on the place, including a fine brick house with suitable outbuildings. He carries on his operations on an extensive scale and is able to supply the towns of Findlay, Carey and Fostoria with the best of farm and garden produce. And his ingenuity in mechanical matters enables him to perfect many devices aiding in his work and to repair all his tools himself.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Bowlby was married to Miss Sophia Thompson, the daughter of William and Mary Thompson. Two daughters were born of this marriage, but they are now deceased and Mrs. Bowlby died in 1882. In 1883 he married Miss Lucretia Southerland, daughter of William and Susan Southerland; no children were born. Mr. Bowlby is not only a practical farmer but a practical man in the true sense of the word, and he has used his influence for the good of his community. He has been a member of the school board and through his efforts the beautiful schoolhouse has assumed its present appearance. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a trustee and past grand of the order. He is a member of the Methodist church and in state and national affairs uncompromisingly Republican, but rather independent in local elections.

JOHN W. JACOBS.

Among the many handsome, highly improved and well cultivated farms which one sees in passing through Big Lick township, none are more worthy of notice than that owned by the subject of this sketch. It is not the largest by any means, consisting of only sixty acres, but in farming, as in other affairs of life, it is not always the biggest things that are most worthy of notice. "A little farm well tilled" has always been so popular that it led to a pretty

John V. Jacobs & Family

RESIDENCE ERECTED IN 1849.

poem and a lovely song composed thereon in its honor. Such a farm is that of John W. Jacobs, and, it may be added in passing, its attractiveness is not diminished, at least from a materialistic point of view, by the fact that here and there may be observed spouting oil wells, to the number of eight, whose constant flow give sure promise of rich revenue to the fortunate owner. In fact, these wells give an income to our subject of an average of two hundred dollars per month, and he has received as high as thirteen hundred dollars per month. Still there are a number of especially promising locations on his farm for other wells, the two hundred dollars per month income being what is expected to be now continuous. Mr. Jacobs came to Hancock county when a baby and has been identified with its development for over half a century. His parents, Levi and Elizabeth (Bear) Jacobs, the former a Virginian and the latter of Perry county, Ohio, where his marriage occurred, removed from there to Hancock county in 1848. The father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which was still in its primeval condition, untouched by the plow, and this he proceeded by the usual pioneer methods to "whip into shape." Hastily erecting a rude log cabin, for temporary residence, he began the apparently endless task of grubbing, digging and clearing which were the inevitable forerunners of that smiling beauty which now characterizes most Ohio farms, but which it cost many a weary blow to bring about. But nothing could resist the dogged perseverance and unflagging industry of the typical pioneer, and Levi Jacobs in time not only made his first purchase "blossom as the rose" but he was able to add to it one hundred and sixty acres more, which he also partly cleared. This land was situated in Big Lick township, and, with the progress of events and growth and development of the state, gradually emerged from the era when it was worth only a nominal price to the present day when it is assessed high up in the double column of figures. Levi Jacobs was a carpenter by trade and worked at this useful calling until middle life, after which he devoted his time entirely to his landed estate. He was a member of the Christian Union church, of moral and upright life and universally regarded as a good and righteous man. He passed away in 1884, when sixty-eight years old, at peace with all mankind, and the partner of his joys and sorrows, who passed away three years before, died in her fifty-ninth year. Of their eight children, those who grew to maturity and are still living are Alexander M., John W., Marion and Ellen. John W. Jacobs, second in age of the surviving children, was born in Perry county, Ohio, July 29, 1847, and as previously stated was an infant in arms when brought to this county by his parents. He grew up and was educated in Big Lick township, where he has ever since resided, thoroughly and energetically connected with the agri-

cultural development of his community. His only occupation has been that of farming, all the practical details of which he has mastered and understands as well as any one in the business. The farm he now owns was purchased about 1882, since which time Mr. Jacobs has erected necessary buildings and greatly improved, while adding to the value of his property. October 11, 1859, he was united in marriage with Sarah E. Jones, who was born in Maryland, April 1, 1848, the daughter of Stephen T. and Mary E. Jones. This union resulted in the birth of six children, the five still living being: Harvey C. born in 1872; Willous J., born in 1874; Amanda O., born in 1877; Laura A., in 1878; and Nellie M., in 1884. The mother, who, as also her husband, was a consistent member of the United Brethren church, ended her blameless Christian life April 5, 1895. Mr. Jacobs inherits many of those excellent and strong traits of character which made his lamented father so popular, and these qualities have been effective in commending him to his acquaintances and securing for him general good will and esteem.

URIAH B. MOYER.

Uriah B. Moyer is one of Union township's substantial and enterprising farmers. He owns and operates sixty-one acres of valuable land and besides raising general crops he is a breeder of high grade registered live stock, his favorite breeds being Devonshire cattle and Poland China hogs; he is also an enthusiastic poultry man, making a specialty of White Wyandots.

The parents of this interesting gentleman were Edmond R. and Lucy A. (Greenawalt) Moyer, both natives of Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, the former being born January 1, 1821, and the latter July 21, 1826. Edmond was a shoemaker by trade and followed that ocupation during his residence in the state. It was in the spring of 1866 that he, with his family of ten children, located on the farm north of Mount Cory now owned by C. H. Smith. There were eighty acres of land in the place, much of it improved, but it was further developed by the mechanical hand of Mr. Moyer. After living on this farm for four years he sold out and bought another of one hundred and sixty acres, where he resided up to the time of his death, which occurred in August, 1884. His wife survived until 1891 and came to her death by a very sad accident; while she was boiling a kettle of soap her clothing caught fire and before she could be rescued she was burned so badly that she soon died; she endured terrible suffering but her end was very peaceful. She and her husband were members of the German Reformed church. They had four-

teen children, and nine of these are now living in this county engaged in various pursuits.

The birth of Uriah B. Moyer occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, December 16, 1852. He was twelve years old when his parents removed to Ohio, and although his education had been begun in his native state, he received most of his stimulating influences in this county. He decided when yet a boy to devote himself to agricultural pursuits and he purchased his present farm in August, 1884. He has ever kept abreast of the times and has improved his farm so that it does not seem the same place it did when he took charge of it.

Mr. Moyer was married September 24, 1876, to Miss Alice L. Watkins, the daughter of Isaac and Esther Watkins, and born in Union township, February 29, 1856. Their three children are, Milton E., who married Olive M. Hubler; Clyde L. and Floyd J. Mr. and Mrs. Moyer are members of the Methodist church, in which he is a trustee and held the office of steward for four years.

FREDERICK BROWNELLER.

Among the successful and representative farmers of Hancock county, whose industry and sagacity have triumphed over all difficulties and enabled him to reach the evening of life in prosperous circumstances, none stand out more conspicuous than the subject of this sketch. He comes of the best and sturdiest of the older population of the east, his parents, Samuel and Sarah (Slaughterback) Browneller, being natives of Pennsylvania of Dutch descent. They moved to Fayette county in the Keystone state in 1812, where the father owned and operated one hundred and eighty acres of coal land. Of his family of eight children, seven are living and two are residents of Hancock county, Ohio. Samuel Browneller was an experienced farmer, a man of excellent sense and judgment in business affairs and a good citizen in every sense of that word. Born in 1810, he lived a life of usefulness until his death, which occurred in 1894. His wife, who was a noble woman of many excellent traits of character and much beloved by all who knew her, was born in the same year as her husband and departed this life one year earlier, or in 1893. No children ever had more affectionate parents than those of this worthy couple and to the early lessons of sobriety, morality and thrift instilled by their father and mother, the surviving offspring attribute much of the success they have achieved in life. Frederick Browneller, one of their sons, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1835, and remained

in his native state until 1870. During the formative period of his life he acquired a thorough knowledge of all kinds of farm work under his father's skillful tutelage and this training he put to most excellent use in after years. March 24, 1870, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, to which he soon added forty more, besides a farm of one hundred and fifty acres in Wood county. From the time of his arrival in Ohio until 1887, Mr. Browneller made his home in Liberty township, but in the year last mentioned he removed to Findlay. At the present time he owns one hundred and eighty-two acres of good land, besides his comfortable residence property in Findlay, where he is leading a life of retirement in the enjoyment of the comforts acquired by a life of industry and good management. He is much esteemed as a neighbor, citizen and friend and is a fine type of the class of men to whom the west is indebted for its wonderful growth and prosperity. June 4, 1857, Mr. Browneller was married to Miss Margaret, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Springer. This union, which was one of unalloyed happiness and ideal in all respects, resulted in the birth of the following named children: Mary, William L., James P., Sarah J., Ann E., David P., Joseph (deceased), Martha C. and Flora A. Mrs. Browneller was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1834, and as mother and wife has enjoyed the esteem of all having the pleasure of her acquaintance. She and her husband have long been working members of the United Brethren church and contribute their full share to every movement which promises to advance the cause of morality and correct living. Mr. Browneller's whole life has been one of hard work and close attention to business, and the success which has come to him has been well earned. David P. Browneller, third son of this worthy family, is one of the prosperous young farmers of Liberty township, and in every way a worthy son of a worthy sire. In 1899 he purchased a farm of eighty acres, to which was added twenty-three more in 1902, and on this land Mr. Browneller is at present residing. His birth occurred in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1863, and he was consequently seven years of age when his father removed to Ohio. He received his education in the schools of Hancock county, grew up to habits of industry and has steadily made headway in the acquisition of property since he began business for himself. November 10, 1887, occurred the marriage of David P. Browneller and Miss Amelia, daughter of William H. and Elizabeth Harpst and the children resulting from this union were Floyd and Cloyd (twins), born October 7, 1889, but now deceased, and Nellie, born January 11, 1891. Mrs. Browneller is a native of Hancock county, Ohio, the date of her birth being May 17, 1867, and her

family connections are among the best the county affords. David P. Browneller is a practical farmer, cultivates his land by up-to-date methods and exhibits all those qualities which in the end bring success to their possessor.

WALLACE DORSEY.

Not only as a successful farmer but as a contractor and builder of more than usual skill and resourcefulness is the subject of this sketch known to the people of Hancock county. He comes of pioneer stock and the family have been connected with the county's growth and progress for nearly three quarters of a century. William Dorsey, who was born in Pennsylvania May 14, 1804, came to Ohio in youth and after his location in Hancock county met Louisa Bryan, whose birth occurred in Kentucky, December 15, 1811, and whose father served in the war of 1812. He was married to this lady in April, 1835, and established a home on one hundred and sixty acres of land, situated partly in each of the townships of Allen and Cass. This tract was "entered" or purchased from the government in a wild state, but the new owner speedily developed and improved the same until it became a fine farm. William Dorsey rose to prominence and influence in his community, and held some offices of importance in the township. He affiliated with the Democratic party, served as assessor and treasurer and was regarded as a man of good business qualifications. His wife bore him eight children, all of whom are living, the eldest being about sixty-six and the youngest forty-eight years old. Their names are Wallace, Elizabeth, William C., Amanda J., Cordelia, Edson, Winfield A., and Milton. The father died September 3, 1886, but his wife survived him ten years, not passing to her final rest until 1896. Wallace Dorsey, the eldest of the children and the subject of this sketch, was born July 5, 1836, in that part of Hancock county, Ohio, now known as Allen township. After the usual educational routine, he served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, which he subsequently followed as a business for twenty years. During that time he did much work as a contractor and builder and the result of his handicraft is now seen in many substantial buildings in various parts of the county, which fully attest the workman's skill. In the year 1863, Mr. Dorsey made his first investment by the purchase of twenty acres of land, which has been added to from time to time until his holdings amount to one hundred and sixty acres of valuable real estate. In time Mr. Dorsey found it necessary to abandon his trade and apply himself more closely to the cultivation of his farm. In 1877 he entered into a new industry, manufacturing drain tile, and this has increased to large proportions

in recent years. He supplies an extensive trade with tile of various sizes and quality, and the business has proved quite lucrative to the proprietor, as well as an accommodation to the large class in need of this indispensable aid to drainage.

February 28, 1861, Mr. Dorsey was united in marriage with Miss Lois, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Nelson, who became the mother of the following named children: Luella, born January 7, 1862; Charles W., born July 26, 1863, now deceased; William W., February 21, 1866; Albert E., January 17, 1867; E. N., January 25, 1872; L. W., December 18, 1873; Mary B., May 8, 1876; Homer O., January 27, 1879; Milton L., June 20, 1881. The mother of these children was born in eastern Ohio in January, 1839, and died September 13, 1897. January 28, 1902, Mr. Dorsey took a second wife in the person of Mrs. F. E. Bennett, a native of the state of New York and a lady much esteemed for her excellent judgment and kindly disposition. Wallace Dorsey is well known throughout Hancock county and it is not too much to say that his friends are as extensive as his acquaintanceship, as he is universally esteemed. Besides being a good business man, full of enterprise and energy, he is of a genial disposition and easy address. The people elected him for the position of township trustee and he discharged the duties of the office with much integrity and wisdom as to obtain universal commendation. In politics he is a Democrat. Mrs. Dorsey is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, which he also attends.

ALVIN L. AND ROBERT B. WORDEN.

The family of Worden is one of the oldest and best known in Hancock county. They have been identified with the county's growth and progress for three-quarters of a century, and during that period no name was more honored than that of Worden. The founder of the family came as an orphan boy to Hancock county in 1827 when only eight years old. Alvin C. Worden was born in New York state January 4, 1819, and had the misfortune to lose his father when only one year old. His grandfather, Norman Chamberlain, took charge of the little waif, and when he decided to locate in Hancock county, Ohio, brought the child with him and tenderly cared for him until he reached manhood. When he arrived at maturity, Mr. Chamberlain gave his grandson one hundred acres of land on condition that he should maintain and care for the former during the remainder of his life. This stipulation was dutifully and affectionately complied with by Alvin C. Worden and the land thus acquired constituted the basis of his business success. In 1840 he was married

ALVIN C. WORDEN.

to Rachel Hall, born in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1821. They established their home on the banks of Blanchard river in Liberty township, where they lived over half a century in ties of affection which were increased rather than diminished by advancing years. The original gift of his grandfather was increased by thrift and good management until Mr. Worden finally owned three hundred and fifty-five acres of land, which he improved until it became highly cultivated and of great value. He was progressive and resourceful in his farm methods, kept fully abreast of all modern improvements and achieved rank as one of the foremost agriculturists of Hancock county. His political affiliations were with the Republican party and his loyalty and patriotism were unquestioned. He lent his aid to the cause of morality and good citizenship and set a good example as a conscientious and devoted member of the Presbyterian church. Alvin C. Worden, after a long and useful life, passed away in 1891, and within ten months was followed by his good wife, who closed her earthly career in 1892. Though this pioneer couple became the parents of sixteen children, only five of these grew to maturity. Of those now living, Robert B. was born in July, 1849; Alvin L., December 23, 1856; and Sylvia S., March 21, 1855. Sallie A., the youngest, is now the wife of M. Moore. Robert B. and Sylvia S., who are unmarried, reside on the old homestead, which is now the property of the former. In 1882 Alvin L. Worden was united in marriage to Miss Sophia W., daughter of Isaac and Mary Teatsworth, and Claud L., the only child of this union, was born October 21, 1883. It was in 1881 that Alvin L. Worden made his first purchase of land, the tract consisting of forty acres, but this was increased at different times until Mr. Worden's real estate holdings amount to three hundred acres. On this land and what he owns in conjunction with his brother, Robert B., there are sixty-six oil wells, of which thirty-six are owned jointly by the two brothers. For six years Alvin L. Worden has held the office of township trustee, and he has been a member of the school board for twelve years. The Worden brothers are much esteemed both in public and private and fulfill every requirement of good citizenship in all the walks of life. In politics R. B. Worden is a Republican, as is also his brother, Alvin L., who takes an active part in the campaigns, both local and general.

WALTER H. KINDER.

The above named gentleman, who is the junior member of the firm of Ross & Kinder, of Findlay, comes of one of the pioneer families of Ohio. He is a lawyer of fine ability, and a citizen whom any community might well be

proud to own. Born in Hamilton, Ohio, on October 12, 1856, he was there reared and educated, graduating from the high school of that city in 1874. For a year he taught school in Putnam county, Ohio, and then entered the famous book store in Cincinnati, Ohio, of Robert Clark & Company, where he clerked about a year. In 1875 he commenced the study of his profession with ex-Governor James E. Campbell, and on the 31st of March, 1879, was admitted to the bar at Hamilton, Ohio. He began practice in the town of Ottawa, Ohio, where he remained until 1887, when he located in Findlay, and has since engaged in the practice of his profession at that point. There was, however, a period of three years, from 1890 to 1893, when he was engaged in the service of the state, Governor Campbell, his old law preceptor, having appointed him state superintendent of insurance. When he returned to Findlay, after laying down the duties of the office of insurance commissioner, he formed the present partnership with George W. Ross. May 29, 1902, at Tiffin, Ohio, Mr. Kinder was nominated on the Democratic ticket for judge of the court of common pleas for the first subdivision of the Tenth judicial district, which subdivision is comprised of the counties of Hancock, Seneca, Hardin and Wood. The domestic life of Mr. Kinder dates from the 26th of August, 1886, when he was joined in marriage at Ottawa, Ohio, with Helen F., who is the daughter of Dr. Charles E. Tupper (deceased). Four children have been born to the marriage: Tupper, Margaret V., William Randall and Charles Edward. As before mentioned, the family of which Mr. Kinder is an honored member is one of the pioneer families of the state. His father, William Ross Kinder, was born in Franklin, Ohio, in December, 1826, and died in Hamliton, Ohio, in 1860. He was a lawyer by profession, having studied law under ex-Governor John B. Weller, who was an ex-governor and ex-United States senator from California, and had lived in Hamilton, Ohio. He was appointed a member of a commission to ascertain the boundary between California and Mexico, and in the pursuit of this object, he appointed our subject's father his private secretary. After the work had been completed, William R. Kinder went with Mr. Weller to San Francisco, and there they formed a partnership in the practice of law, but two years later, in 1852, Mr. Kinder returned to Hamilton, Ohio. Here he bought the "Hamilton Telegraph," a weekly paper, which he conducted until 1858. In that year he was elected probate judge of that county, Butler, and it was while serving in this office that his death occurred on the 10th of February, 1860. He married in 1852, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Agnes, the daughter of Jacob and Maria (L'Hommedieu) Long, and to this marriage were born children as follows: William R., now deceased, who was at the time of

his death states attorney of Waseca county, Minnesota; Charles L. H. Kinder, who died in infancy; Walter H. Kinder, the subject of this sketch; Stephen L. H. Kinder, living at Toledo, Ohio. The grandfather of our subject, George Kinder, born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1800, and died in 1863. For many years he was a farmer, and owned and operated a line of boats on the Miami and Erie Canal. The great-grandfather, Abram Kinder, was a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he was born, but in later life emigrated to Warren county, Ohio. In 1800 he entered the original Kinder farm, and continued to operate it until his death. Passing now back to the great-great-grandfather of our present subject, we find that his name was George, but that no further information is given concerning him. His father was Philip Kinder, born in Holland, a son of Valentine Kinder, who emigrated from Holland, and in 1756 came to Berks county, Pennsylvania. Philip Kinder was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

WILLIAM E. STEPHENSON.

The subject of this sketch, whose name is above given, has been prominently connected with two of the most important industries of Hancock county, those of glass-making and the production of oil. They are both modern, having grown up since the war, and their operation has contributed greatly to the development and building up of the sections where they were located, at the same time employing many thousands of laborers besides furnishing abundant opportunities for fortune making to bold and enterprising spirits. Mr. Stephenson has at different times been connected with both these notable industries of the gas and oil belt, and few men are better informed on all matters connected therewith. He is descended from John Stephenson, a Pennsylvania man who settled in Knox county, Ohio, in the early part of the nineteenth century, and died there in 1850. His son, William Stephenson, was born at Martinburg, Ohio, in 1823, removed to Hancock county in 1854, where he farmed until 1887 and died in 1898. He married Mary Anderson, who deserves special mention on account of her distinguished and patriotic ancestry. Her great-grandfather, Patrick Anderson, was a captain in a regiment of Pennsylvania infantry during the Revolutionary war, and after independence was achieved assisted in organizing the famous order of Cincinnati, of which he was a charter member. His son, James Anderson, was also a Revolutionary soldier, being a lieutenant in Colonel Stephen Meylan's Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Light Dragoons. The latter's son, William Anderson, became the father of Mrs. Stephenson, and

grandfather of the subject of this sketch. William and Mary (Anderson) Stephenson became the parents of six children, of whom Ada M. died when she was fifteen years of age. The five survivors are: Viola, wife of Frank Bigelow; Laura S., wife of Samuel B. Sneath; Marian, unmarried; Anderson L., and William E. Stephenson. The latter, who is the youngest of the family, was born in Findlay township, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1862, was reared on the farm and received his education in the township and Findlay schools. He dropped his books at the age of seventeen and returned to the farm, where he continued to work for seven years, and then decided on a new line of business. In 1887, in connection with others, he helped to organize the Mabel Flint Glass Company, which put up a factory near Findlay, and for the four following years Mr. Stephenson filled the place of shipping clerk for the new concern. At the end of that time there was such a diminution in the gas supply that it was decided to remove the plant to Albany, Indiana, after which Mr. Stephenson spent a year on the road as traveling salesman for the company, subsequently taking charge of the sorting and packing department of the factory. After holding this position for one year, he retired and entered the business of producing oil, which has since been his occupation up to the present time.

June 1, 1887, Mr. Stephenson was united in marriage with Miss Jennie, daughter of Jacob B. Wagner, a member of a well known family of Findlay. In his political affiliations Mr. Stephenson is a Democrat, but he belongs to no church nor any secret society.

WILLIAM MILLER TAIT.

The above name is one that has long been familiar in the famous oil regions of Pennsylvania and later in connection with that industry in West Virginia, Indiana and various parts of Ohio. In fact, Mr. Tait has spent the entire period of his active life as a producer of this wealth-giving product to the new world. William Miller Tait was born on a farm in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1859, and received his education in the common schools and at Grove City College, in his native county. In 1880 he left home and proceeded directly to the oil country of McKean county, Pennsylvania, where he worked three years as an employe of his uncle, J. S. Patterson, of Jamestown, New York, and at the end of that time was taken into partnership by Mr. Patterson, which was the real beginning of his business career. The firm of Patterson & Tait operated for ten years as oil producers in Allegany county, New York, at the end of which time they acquired inter-

Wm M Tait

ests in Hancock county, Ohio. About 1889 Mr. Patterson had formed a partnership with Charles Wade, of Findlay, Ohio, and they had oil interests in the territory near the last mentioned place, which were managed by Mr. Wade. The latter, however, died in 1892, and shortly thereafter Mr. Tait came to Findlay, purchased Mr. Wade's interest and continued the business in partnership with Mr. Patterson until the latter's death in 1899. W. C. Patterson, of Jamestown, New York, who up to this time had been a silent partner, joined with Mr. Tait in forming the firm of Tait & Patterson, under which title the business at Findlay has since been carried on. Besides the property heretofore mentioned Mr. Tait is interested in oil wells in West Virginia and in Wood and Sandusky counties, Ohio.

In 1884 Mr. Tait was married to Miss Laura Z., daughter of Robert M. and Martha Harkness, of Fairview, Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and they now reside in one of the most pleasant and hospitable homes in the city of Findlay. Mr. Tait is a very enthusiastic member of the Masonic fraternity, but has no connection with any other secret society. In politics he is a leading Republican, and is always found doing his full share in promoting the interests and principles of that party. As an evidence of the appreciation accorded Mr. Tait, it may be stated that he was selected as a member of the building committee entrusted with the task of erecting the new First Presbyterian church in Findlay, and this confidence was amply proven by the fact that this building has recently been completed at a cost of sixty-two thousand dollars and turned over for dedication entirely free from debt.

JAMES R. CLARK.

A great many Pennsylvanians have made their homes in Findlay, and among the number who claim the Keystone state as a birth place is Mr. James R. Clark, who has for so many years conducted an undertaking establishment in Findlay.

Mr. Clark is of Irish parentage, his father, Forbes Clark, having been born in Ireland in 1758. He came to America in early life and settled in Pennsylvania, where he died in 1832, when the subject of this sketch was eight years old. He was a coppersmith by trade.

Our subject was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1824, and after his father's death was reared by an aunt in Cumberland county of that state. His early life was spent on a farm, and his education was in the country schools. At the age of eighteen he desired to learn a trade and went to Gettysburg, where he learned cabinet making. He remained there for three

years, perfecting his trade and from there went to Philadelphia, where he lived about a year. He afterward returned to Gettysburg for a short time, and in the fall of 1848 moved to Findlay, then a small village of about eight or nine hundred inhabitants. He found opportunities at hand for carrying on his trade, and in about a year was able to open a cabinet shop of his own. In 1849 he added undertaking to his business on the site where he is now operating and has continued in that line ever since. He has done well and made many friends while accumulating a competence for his late life.

Mr. Clark was united in marriage in 1851 in Findlay to Mary Ann Devine. To this couple have been born four children, as follows: Sarah A., who died in her sixth year; Charles M.; John F. and Walter S. Mrs. Clark died in July, 1898. Our subject is a member of the English Lutheran church of Findlay, and is connected fraternally with Hancock Lodge, No. 72, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he has been a member for over fifty years.

HARRISON BROOKS.

We have here one of the gentlemen who at the inception of the Cival war patriotically responded to his country's call and served her faithfully through that dark and bloody period. He is a well known and practical farmer residing in Cass township, where he conducts a farm of seventy-two acres. Mr. Harrison Brooks is a son of Jonathan and Rebecca Brooks, and was born near Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, in the year 1838. His parents were natives of New York state, and were farmers of more than ordinary prominence in their day in Seneca county. Jonathan was a man of considerable influence, possessed of energy and activity, and by toil and perseverance made a large place for himself in society, both from moral and a financial standpoint. He adhered to the doctrines of the Presbyterian faith. Politically he favored the Republican party, and held some of the minor offices in the township. He and his wife were laid to rest in Seneca county.

Harrison Brooks, the son, passed the period of adolescence in Seneca county, and was educated at the common schools in the village of Tiffin. The parents died early, and his educational advantages were thus limited. He was forced to the choice of a vocation earlier in life than the ordinary boy. He adopted that of a farmer, and so thoroughly did he master the principles of agriculture that he has always been a success. In 1864 he laid aside the plow and went to the front as a private soldier in Company B, One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving his

time and being honorably discharged at the close of the war. In 1866 Mr. Brooks took unto himself a partner in the person of Miss Mary Morris of Seneca county, this lady being a native of old England. She became the mother of seven children, Jennie, Frank (deceased), Ralph, Ida, Rowley, Grace and Harry. The two sons are well-to-do farmers of Hancock county. The mother of these children died in 1896. Mr. Brooks with his family removed from Seneca to Hancock county, and after residing in another section of the township for a few years purchased in 1898 his present farm. He is a public spirited and progressive citizen, and his sterling worth and high moral character attract to him the good offices of a large circle of friends.

ALEXANDER B. POWELL.

Among the many emigrants contributed by Pennsylvania to the pioneer settlement of Ohio, none have earned a better name or contributed more to the development of their respective localities than the original family of Powell and their descendants. Daniel and Eliza Powell took up their residence in Fairfield county when it gave little promise of becoming the rich and prosperous agricultural community into which it later developed. This Pennsylvania couple, however, who had been trained to hard work and inured to the customs prevailing, soon surrounded themselves with the comforts of a country home and lived lives of usefulness which secured them general respect. Their son, Alexander B. Powell, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, March 14, 1842, and grew to manhood in the place of his nativity. He was fairly well educated in the country schools, but the best part of his training was obtained on the farm where he learned those habits of industry and mastery of details which were to stand him in good stead in after life. It was in 1869 that Mr. Powell determined to remove to Hancock county and in January of that year he purchased a tract of land in Blanchard township. This farm, consisting of one hundred and forty acres, was at the time Mr. Powell obtained possession only partly cleared, but under his deft manipulation it has been much improved and placed in a high state of cultivation. Among the numerous improvements may be mentioned the erection of a handsome residence and various out buildings adapted to a modern Ohio farm of the best class. Mr. Powell has not indulged in what is called "fancy farming, but has adhered to the cultivation of the cereal crops adapted to his latitude, besides the breeding and raising of suitable stock of various kinds for domestic purposes and the market.

December 6, 1868, occurred the nuptials of Alexander B. Powell and

Miss Rebecca L., daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Jackson, the bride being a native of Wyandot county, where she was born in 1840. This union proved an ideally happy one and has been blessed by the births of some unusually bright and promising children whose names are thus recorded: Webster H., Elmer A., Eva G., Ross W., Ora L. and Virgil D., deceased. Webster H. Powell, the eldest of these children, has already chosen his life's work and gives promise of a career of usefulness and brilliancy. After finishing in the common school he entered the State Normal at Ada, from which institution he graduated with high honors. Subsequently he took a course in Delaware College and there also was graduated at the head of his class. He expects, as a rounding out of his educational accomplishments, to receive a diploma from the Boston Theological Institute in 1903. He is a student there at the present time and also fills one of the neighboring pulpits in a manner so acceptable as to encourage the prediction that he will eventually reach high rank as a minister of the gospel. He is a member of the Central Ohio conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, and after his graduation will be actively engaged in the work of that great denomination. He married Miss Clara Walter, an accomplished young lady of Ohio, and their home has been brightened by the advent of one child, Aver D., whose birth occurred in 1902.

Elmer Powell, the second son of this interesting family, is ambitious to be a physician, and is now a diligent student in the medical department of the Chicago University. Mrs. Rebecca L. Powell, after a life devoted to doing good, passed away from earth on the 21st of February, 1901. She was a consistent member of the Benton Ridge Methodist church, of which Mr. Powell is an honored trustee. No family stands higher in Hancock county than that of the Powells, who circulate in the best society and rank among the most progressive citizens. In politics Mr. Powell is a Democrat, though in local affairs he is rather independent and gives his suffrage to those whom he considers the best men.

BENEDICT LICHTY.

For a number of years past Benedict Lichty has been a prominent figure in the annals of Hancock county and has aided materially in its upbuilding. By a life of uprightness, industry and honorable dealing—a life devoted to the support of whatever is good and true—he has won the love and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances. He was born in the far-off land of Switzerland, on the 8th of July, 1848, being a son of Christ and Anna (Lugibihl)

Lichty, also natives of the land of the Alps. The father followed the tilling of the soil as a life occupation, and in his family were ten children, six sons and four daughters, and all were born in Switzeralnd.

Benedict Lichty, the fourth child and third son in the above family, spent the early years of his life in his native land, but in 1880 he left the home of his childhood and youth and came to America, locating first in Allen county, Ohio. Shortly afterward, however, he cast in his lot with the settlers of Hancock county, locating on the farm on which he now resides, where he has erected commodious and substantial buildings and has made all the improvements necessary to a well regulated farm. His homestead consists of eighty acres of fertile and productive land, located on section 7, Orange township, and there he is engaged in general farming. In his native land he was united in marriage to Mary Sommer, who was also born in Switzerland, and they have become the parents of nine children, as follows: Pauline, Caroline, Jacob (deceased), Emanuel, Martha, Katie, Noah, Lena and Dinah, twins. Mr. Lichty is a valued member of the Mennonite church. His many admirable qualities of heart and mind have gained for him a large circle of friends, and he is widely and favorably known in Hancock county.

DANIEL E. SWITZER.

Daniel E. Switzer was born on a farm, and there lived and received his education until he was twenty years old, at which time he came to Findlay, farm life having little attraction for him. Our subject's father is Henderson Switzer, who was born in Richland county, this state, but who later moved to Hancock county, where his son Daniel was born in 1868. The elder Switzer is a farmer.

In 1895 Mr. Switzer established the bakery of Switzer Brothers, he having learned the baker's trade soon after coming to Findlay. He has built up a large and flourishing trade, which is a credit to Findlay. He was married in 1891 to Clara, daughter of Daniel Alspach, and they have four children, as follows: Jessie, Walter, Glenn and Ruth. Mr. Switzer is a member of the Order of Elks, and also the Order of Maccabees. In politics he is a Republican.

JAMES T. ADAMS.

In commercial circles at Findlay no name is more familiar than that of Adams Brothers, the members of which have for many years been identified in a conspicuous way with the industries of the city. Both individually and

collectively these brothers have contributed much toward the growth and development of the municipality, being active in connection with the social and educational as well as the business life of the community. The family is one of ancient origin and honorable record, the founder of the American branch having come over while the present New England states were still loyal subjects of the king. Richard Adams, son of this English emigrant, was born in Massachusetts, took part as a soldier of the line in the epoch making struggle for American independence, and after the war located in Pennsylvania. The late Rev. William Adams, son of this Revolutionary patriot, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, in 1798, removed in 1837 to Wayne county, Ohio, and in 1860 located at Findlay, where he continued to reside until his death in 1882. Originally a member of the Presbyterian, he became in later life a minister of the Church of God, in which capacity he was widely and favorably known among religious workers. This divine was the father of the Adams' Brothers, referred to above, and whose lives and business careers it is the intention to set forth in this and the subsequent biography.

James T. Adams was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1825, and was ten years old when his parents removed to Richland county, Ohio. Such education as he received in childhood was obtained in the schools of Massillon, but it was quite limited as necessity compelled him to go to work for a living when fourteen years old. He became apprentice to a tinner and after learning the trade was engaged in business at Massillon until 1845, after which he went to Plymouth, Ohio, and worked as a tinsmith for sixteen years. In 1854 he came to Findlay, resumed his old business as a tinner and continued at that trade for the following ten years, when he decided to abandon this line of work and change his occupation. His next venture was the establishment of an exclusively hardware store, which he carried on with more or less success for five or six years, when he disposed of his interests and began the manufacture of linseed oil. This venture proving profitable, he continued it for eighteen years, or until 1878, when Mr. Adams joined his brothers in organizing the foundry and machine business which goes by their name. The business was carried on as a partnership until 1890, when it was incorporated as a company with James T. Adams as president and his brother Newton as treasurer. These relations have continued up to the present and meanwhile the company has steadily grown in favor and prosperity until their work is familiar in all the marts of northern Ohio devoted to that class of goods. During his residence of forty-eight years at Findlay, Mr. Adams has been a familiar feature in the city's life and he has aided in many ways the general advancement. The people elected him to the city council

and he did such good work in that position that there was a general insistence on his retention, and the consequence was that Mr. Adams had to serve sixteen years before he was allowed to retire. In addition to his councilmanic career, he also did good work on the Findlay school board, of which he was a member about six years. In 1902 Mr. Adams erected the Adams building—60x140 feet, five stories—which is constructed of pressed brick and stone and modern in all of its appointments. Mr. Adams' religious convictions are in line with Presbyterianism and in politics, though unobtrusively an earnest Republican, he avoids the turmoil and bickering of ultra-partisanship. He is the oldest Odd Fellow in point of service in Hancock county, also belongs to the Encampment and has filled all the chairs in his lodge. In 1849 Mr. Adams was married to Harriet L., daughter of Peter Bodine, of Richland county, and of the three children resulting from this union, the two survivors are Charles F. and Lizzie, wife of John A. Meeks of Findlay.

NEWTON M. ADAMS.

This gentleman is the treasurer of the well known Adams' Brothers Company, of which his brother James is president, and they have been connected in business at Findlay for thirty-four years. But his activities are by no means confined to his duties with the foundry firm, his regular occupation being varied by service in the city council, as chief of the Findlay fire department, and as president of the City Banking Company, which position he holds at the present time. As the family history has been given in the sketch of James T. Adams, presented above, it will not be necessary to repeat it further than to say that the name of Adams has been a respected one in the various states where its representatives have resided and nowhere else so much as in Ohio, with whose interests they have been identified for more than half a century of active business life.

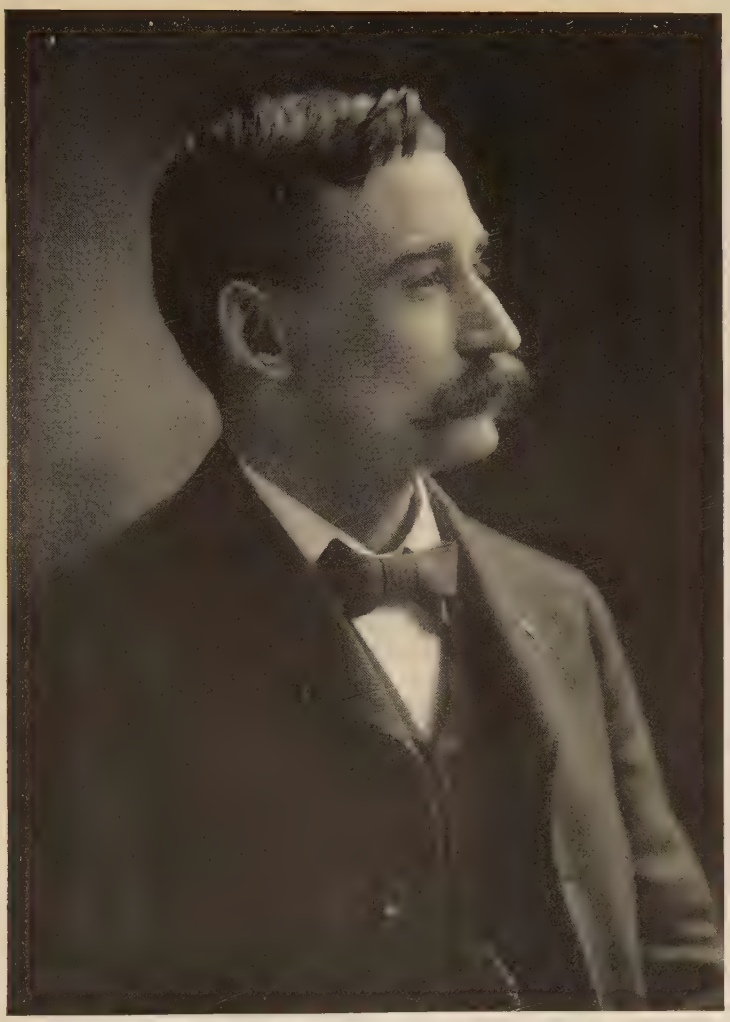
Newton M. Adams was born at Plymouth, Ohio, December 3, 1844, and remained at home until the age of fourteen, when the family necessities compelled him to seek work for a livelihood. Going to Corunna, Indiana, he succeeded in getting employment as clerk in a store, which position he retained until the turmoil incident to the opening of the Civil war turned his attention in other directions. In short he caught the war fever, and in December, 1863, enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war and meantime rose to the rank of corporal. Mr. Adams took part with

his regiment in Sherman's memorable "on to Atlanta" campaign in the spring and summer of 1864, but when Hood made his famous break toward Nashville, the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth formed part of the troops sent in pursuit. The most important battles in which Mr. Adams fought were those at Franklin, Nashville and Spring Hill, Tennessee, subsequent to which his regiment was sent to North Carolina where it took part in the closing scenes, including the engagement at Bentonville. After obtaining his final discharge, Mr. Adams returned directly to his old place at Corunna, remained there three years and in 1869 came to Findlay where he embarked in the stove and tin business. This venture occupied his attention until 1871 when he joined his brother in organizing a partnership to conduct the foundry and machine business at Findlay, which nine years later eventuated in the corporation since officered by the Adams Brothers. He has been one of the important factors in the success of this popular plant, as he is not only a man of great energy and perseverance, but is noted for the clearness and coolness of his business judgment. These qualities caused him to be elected to the council, where the city needed his services, also made him a gas trustee and led to his appointment to the responsible post of chief of the fire department.

In 1868 Mr. Adams was united in marriage with Mary J., daughter of Levi Brown, and they have four children: Bestor E.; James T.; Donald B. and Jeannette. Mr. Adams has long been an enthusiastic Odd Fellow and by virtue of his military services is a welcome comrade of Post No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic.

CHARLES F. SMITH.

The career of this gentleman, now manager of an important traction system at Findlay, is both interesting and instructive, inasmuch as it is typically American, and illustrates a distinctive phase of our national life. Students of our great transportation systems, to which the United States owes more for its rapid development than any other cause, are always struck with the fact that its great captains and ruling spirits almost invariably rise from the "bottom of the ladder" up through the various grades until they reach the top. When this pinnacle has been reached its duties are discharged with a capacity usually measured by the thoroughness of the educational process undergone in attaining it, and generally the one who has been faithful in small things is rewarded by being placed in charge of the larger affairs. In the case under consideration, it may be mentioned in passing that Mr. Smith acquired his



Chas. F. Smith

first taste as well as his first knowledge of transportation by electric propulsion while serving as an office-boy for one of the Cincinnati inclined plane railways. When the opportunity and the man meet and the man has the qualities in him to take advantage of the opportunity, the result follows as a matter of course, and what pessimistic fault-finders are in the habit of denouncing as "special privilege" or "favoritism" is really nothing more than the bright boy or man proving himself equal to the occasion which is constantly presenting itself to the deserving in this country of unequaled opportunities.

Though of German extraction this branch of the Smith family has long been thoroughly acclimated by naturalization upon American soil. John C. Smith, father of our subject, came over in infancy with his parents, who located at Cincinnati, and there passed the remainder of their lives. After reaching manhood he became a mechanic, served through the Civil war in one of the Ohio regiments of infantry, and died in Cincinnati in 1893, aged fifty-three years. Charles F. Smith was born at Cincinnati, November 6, 1863, and got such academical education as he was destined to receive in the schools of that city. But he was one of those boys who do not need much "schooling" of the ordinary kind, they having a way of their own for learning those things which are calculated to be most useful and valuable. When the youthful Smith had reached his fourteenth year he secured a position as office-boy with the Mt. Adams and Eden Park Inclined Plane Railway Company, and stuck closely to his position for the next ten years. He became assistant superintendent of the company, in which position he continued until he came to Findlay, in September, 1887. Without unnecessary delay he purchased the material and superintended the building of the Findlay Street Railway, with a single trackage of eight miles at first, which has since been more than doubled. Mr. Smith continued as manager of the street railway until its absorption by the Toledo, Bowling Green & Southern Traction Company, after which he was made manager of the latter and has since retained that position. Inasmuch as he has gone through every department he understands the business from the ground up, and consequently makes an invaluable employe both for his company and the people. But his activities have not been confined to one line of work. In 1892 he became one of the organizers of the Hancock Light and Power Company, of which he was president for three years, and after the reorganization in 1895 he held the vice-presidency until the company was absorbed by the Findlay Street Railway Company in 1899. In June, 1901, Mr. Smith secured the franchise for heating houses by the hot-water system, which will be carried on by the traction company under his management. It will be seen from the foregoing

recital that Charles F. Smith is just the kind of man needed in every community to make the wheels of progress go round and who are especially valuable in these days of electric development, when no town is of consequence which has not a good transit system, electric lighting plant and other up-to-date improvements. Improvement enterprises will not be established, neither will they progress, without the right kind of men behind them.

In 1885 Mr. Smith was married at Cincinnati to Miss Lizzie J., daughter of John M. Farland, and Harry C. Smith is the product of this union. Mr. Smith's political predilections are Republican, and his fraternal connections are with the Mystic Shrine, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Elks.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD NORRIS.

Mr. Norris is a resident farmer of Cass township, and was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 27th of July, 1846. Six years later he removed with his parents to Hancock county, since which time he has been a continuous resident. He was brought up on a farm, where he engaged in the occupations incident to his environment, receiving an ordinary school education. When our country was threatened by internal disturbances, in the troublous times of the Civil war, Mr. Norris, though a mere boy, was exceedingly anxious to engage in the defense of the Union. His age, however, was a bar to the active expression of his loyalty until the year 1864, when he enlisted as a member of Company F, of the Forty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a private soldier. In this company he served until the time of his honorable discharge at the close of the war, participating in all the service that fell to the lot of his command. Returning to the pursuits of peace, he engaged in farming, and has since then been a member of that honorable class which is proud to number among its members such men as Washington, Jefferson and many other of the prominent men of this country.

December 21, 1870, he led to the matrimonial altar Miss Sarah A., daughter of Alexander and Catherine Baker, who is a woman of superior attainments and during all of these years has been a true helpmate to her husband. She is a native of Hancock county, having been born in Cass township February 2, 1849. Her grandfather on the maternal side was one of the pioneers of the county, the name of John H. Eckert appearing in the handwriting of President Andrew Jackson on the original patent to the farm on which she and her husband now reside. Mr. Norris and his wife have cultivated this farm since 1870. Its ninety acres consist of most valuable soil, and contain one gas well. Mr. Norris is a Republican in politics, has held the office

of township trustee, and at the date of the present writing is the honored treasurer of the township. Fraternally, he affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a worthy member of Stoker Post, No. 54, of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Alexander M. Norris, now deceased, the father of our subject, was born in Harford county, Maryland, September 17, 1808. As was the custom in that early day, he was apprenticed to a trade, and became an expert and skilled worker in leather, following for a number of years the particular branch of the trade known as shoemaking. In 1835 he emigrated to Fairfield county, Ohio, and in 1852 removed to Hancock county, where he abandoned the trade of his early life and began a career as an agriculturist. Here he purchased at various times lands amounting to two hundred and twenty acres. He became a man in good circumstances before he died. He was a man of fine judgment, honest, industrious, and respected by his neighbors, among whom he had considerable influence. Politically he was a Republican, though he was not given to taking part in the public life of the community. He was married twice, first to Mary J., the daughter of John Norris, in 1837. By this union there were six children, four of whom grew to maturity, and three still living: Mary F.; Elizabeth A.; and Sarah J. The mother died in 1844, and for his second wife Mr. Norris chose Maria, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stone, the second marriage following close upon the death of the mother of his children because of their helpless condition. The second marriage was consummated in 1845, and to this union were born five children, three of whom are now living, George W.; David L.; and Annie R. Mrs. Maria Norris was a native of Virginia, having been born November 23, 1811. She died in June, 1892, her husband, Alexander M., dying in September, 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Norris have three children: John N., Belle and George D. Mr. Norris owns two hundred and fifty acres of fine land on which there are now four oil wells.

WILLIAM JAMES FREY.

A notable character in more ways than one is the gentleman whose career is herein to be briefly outlined. During his residence of over forty years at Findlay, he has been prominently connected with the politics and business as well as the industrial and social life of the city. As a popular candidate for congress, chairman of the state committee of one of the great political parties, president of the city water works, a leading druggist and in other

ways Mr. Frey has been constantly in the public eye, and necessarily subjected to the criticism which never fails to accompany prominence of any kind. That he has passed through this ordeal unscathed is sufficient evidence that he possesses those moral qualities which enable one to rise superior to the ordinary faultfinding, characteristic of humanity, and grow steadily in the good will as well as esteem of the community. Mr. Frey comes from an old family, which originated in England, but was long domiciled in Maryland, the first immigrant locating at Baltimore but later settling in the southwestern part of the state. His grandfather was Dr. William Frey, who was born and bred in Maryland and became a noted physician, his practice extending over a wide area of the state. He married Elizabeth Coddington, daughter of General Coddington of Revolutionary fame and member of a family of great influence during the formative period of the republic. Samuel D. Frey, son of the Doctor, was born in Alleghany county, near Cumberland, Maryland, in 1825, and was the first of the name to try his fortunes in the west. In 1846 he came to Bellfontaine, Ohio, as a contractor engaged in building the first line of railroad through that town. A short time before his arrival in a business capacity, he has visited Bellfontaine in a more interesting role and had been married there to Priscilla B., daughter of Hon. John Slicer. The latter was a man of note in Maryland and for many years represented Alleghany county in the state legislature. After finishing his contract with the railroad company Samuel D. Frey followed other pursuits and finally came to Findlay, where he was engaged in the drug business until the time of his death in 1897.

William James Frey, son of the last mentioned, was born at Bellefontaine, Ohio, December 9, 1854, and was six years old when his parents removed to Findlay. His education was received in the schools of the latter city, supplemented by attendance for two years at Cleveland College, and a term at the Commercial College in the same place. It was in 1871 that Mr. Frey finished his course at the last named school and immediately thereafter he returned to his home in Findlay, to take up the serious affairs of life. His ambition had always been to qualify himself for the profession of law, and with this end in view he took up the study in the office of Judge M. C. Whiting, at that time one of the distinguished advocates of Ohio. Though Mr. Frey finished his course at the last named school and immediately therefinally abandoned his intention of following the profession and joined his father in the drug business at Findlay, which connection he has since continuously maintained. Mr. Frey got in touch with politics at an early age, exhibited a natural turn therefor and has risen to prominence as one of the

leaders of the Democratic party. Eventually he was nominated by his party as its candidate for congress in the Eighth Ohio district, which normally has a Republican majority of 6,500, but by a vigorous canvass and much hard work Mr. Frey managed to cut down these figures over two thousand. At the Democratic state convention in 1900, he was made chairman of his party's state central committee and held that position during the two subsequent years to the entire satisfaction of his associates. He was re-elected to this position at Sandusky in 1902. In 1890 Mr. Frey was elected president of the Findlay Water Works Company and has since discharged the duties of that office.

In 1890 Mr. Frey was united in marriage with Miss Mary, daughter of Captain Alexander Gilchrist, of Vermilion county, and the result of the union is an only daughter, named Florence M. Mr. Frey's fraternal connections are confined to membership in the Knights of Pythias, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

JAMES T. HOY.

The story of Philip Hoy, founder of the family of that name in Hancock county, is interesting because so typical of the early pioneer period. Born in Pennsyvania in 1793, he made his way to Kentucky at a time when the "dark and bloody ground" was still unsettled in its government and not the most desirable place for peaceful pursuits. About the end of the first quarter of the ninteenth century Philip Hoy crossed the river to Cincinnati, later went to Columbus and from there to Fairfield county, finally "winding up" in Hancock county in 1834. During all his wanderings Philip was accompanied by his faithful wife, Tilitha, who was born in 1798 and shared her husband's fortunes for weal or woe for more than sixty years. Philip Hoy entered one hundred and twenty acres of land in what is now Amanda township, erected a rude log cabin after the universal custom of those times and moved in with his family. At this stage of the game Philip made an inventory of his resources and found he had just fifty cents with which to begin life in the new country. But, as a matter of fact, the lack of money was little regarded by the pioneers, who lived principally upon game and fish until they could realize something from their crops. Thus, though there might not be a cent in actual money about the house for a year, there would be an abundance of excellent food and comfortable though coarse material for clothing. By dint of the usual digging and hacking Philip Hoy finally brought his farm into fair shape and improved in circumstances as the years

went by. He was very religious in his temperament and became a local minister of the United Brethren church, in which capacity he was instrumental in building and keeping alive several churches for use of pioneer preachers. In other respects Philip Hoy became a man of influence in his community, holding some of the important township offices and enjoying prestige as a soldier of the war of 1812. He passed away in 1879, in the eighty-eighth year of his age, and five years later was followed to the grave by his faithful widow. This worthy couple became the parents of eight children: Caliste Ramsay, Mary A. Clapper, Daniel, Lewis, Wilson, John, Lewis H. and James T.

Of the children above enumerated only four are now living, and among these is James T. Hoy, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 19, 1829. He was therefore an infant of tender years when brought by his parents to Hancock county and installed as one of the occupants of the log cabin in Amanda township. Schools in those days were as scarce as other comforts of civilization, and pioneer children seldom secured much learning in these crude academies of the wilderness. Young Hoy got his share as he grew up, but depended much more on the carpenter's trade he had learned than on book knowledge as a means of making his way in the world. Many years of the early part of his life were devoted to carpenter work, which was then much in demand and well remunerated, and from his general work he finally saved up enough to buy a farm. His first purchase of real estate was made in 1872 and consisted of one hundred acres, to which he added forty acres more three years later. Since then his holdings have been greatly improved as well as increased in value by the erection of suitable buildings and other beautifying processes which indicate the progressive farmer. In fact everything on or about the Hoy home has an appearance of prosperity and up-to-dateness that prove better than words can the presence of a master who understands his business.

In 1856 Mr. Hoy was united in marriage with Euphemia, daughter of Rufus and Harriet Bennett, old settlers of Hancock county. They arrived from Pennsylvania in 1835, just one year after the advent of the Hoys, and from that time on the two families were intimately connected in their social relations. The Bennetts entered one hundred and twenty acres of land in Jackson township, but subsequently increased their estate to five hundred acres, which is now in the hands of their seven surviving children. Mrs. Hoy was born near Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1833, and was consequently an infant in arms when her parents reached their destination in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hoy have three children:

Bennett G., Serelda V. and Harriet T. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Hoy is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has served as township trustee, and in 1875 was nominated as a candidate for county commissioner.

THEODORE KARN.

Prominently known as a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Hancock county is Theodore Karn, who also deserves mention in this volume by reason of his own worth and prominence. He is a well known farmer of Cass township, where he resides on a holding of sixty acres of land, which he devotes to general farming. His parents were Ezra and Elizabeth (Albertson) Karn, the former born in Maryland, September 16, 1815, and the latter in New Jersey, June 23, 1819. Their marriage occurred March 21, 1839, and their family consisted of the following children: William, born August 22, 1840; Theodore, February 9, 1842; Drucilla, October 13, 1846; Jerome, September 25, 1848; Simeon, June 20, 1852; Albert, April 22, 1855; Martin, July 1, 1857; Mary E., deceased, November 4, 1859. Ezra Karn removed to Cass township in 1835, and previous to that date he had located for a short time in Holmes county, Ohio. In 1840 he purchased forty acres of land in section ten, which was in its primitive state, and the usual log house and outbuildings were erected by him. In 1845 he sold this farm, receiving for it $400, with which he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, also in its virgin state. He continued to improve and beautify this farm, and in 1860 he purchased another eighty acres, part of which his son Theodore now owns. Ezra Karn was a popular man in his day, and a most successful farmer. He served the township for several years as trustee, and was actively interested in educational work, having served on the school board. His religious proclivities found endorsement in the Lutheran church, in which he served for a period as deacon. In political belief he held to the principles of Democracy. He served on the board of agriculture for several years and was one of its projectors. His life, while not being an eventful one, was full of that interest which must ever attach to the noble band of pioneers that built society in Hancock county. He died September 3, 1883, his wife having preceded him by three years, dying May 12, 1880. Valentine Karn, the grandfather of our immediate subject, came to the county about the same time as the son. He settled on one hundred and sixty acres of land which had but very few improvements. His wife was Elizabeth Smoots, and their family numbered seven sons and four

daughters, one of the daughters still living. Valentine was a cooper by trade, and was a first-class mechanic as well as a good and industrious farmer. He died in the spring of 1845. His wife followed him several years later.

Theodore Karn was born in Cass township as above mentioned, and spent his youth on the farm, being early trained to habits of industry and economy, that have proved a substantial foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of his manhood's success. He adopted farming as a profession, and upon establishing a home of his own called to preside over it Miss Mary E. Swisher. This event occurred in 1883. Mrs. Karn is the daughter of Peter and Sara A. Swisher. She was born at Ada, Ohio, on the 28th of December, 1864. She has presented her husband with the following children: Lola E., February 20, 1885; Grace B., January 25, 1887; Bessie A., December 23, 1889; Cloyse A., April 3, 1893; Laura J., January 23, 1896; and Edwin, December 18, 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. Karn, together with their interesting family, reside in peace and contentment among a host of admiring friends and acquaintances.

ELMER C. BOLTON.

The above named gentleman, at present holding the responsible position of engineer of Hancock county, deserves especial notice among the young men who have achieved exceptional success in difficult lines of employment though scarcely thirty years of age. Mr. Bolton has been connected with the engineering department of the county or city ever since leaving school, and has exhibited an aptitude for the work that bespeaks the born mechanic. In fact, Mr. Bolton is regarded as one of the brightest and most promising of the county's young men, his friends predicting for him higher and better things than any so far achieved. Though not a native, all his adult life has been spent in Hancock county, and he is so thoroughly identified with its interests as to deserve rank among her most loyal sons.

Elmer C. Bolton was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1873, and when nine years of age was brought to Ohio by his parents. They located in Hancock county, and here Elmer received his education in Findlay College, supplemented by a course in the Ohio Normal University at Ada. He left the last mentioned institution in 1894 and shortly thereafter obtained employment as a helper in the office of the engineer of Hancock county. Two years later he became a candidate for the office of engineer, and at the fall election in 1896 was defeated by only

fourteen votes. In January, 1897, the legislature extended the term of several county officers, among the number being that of engineer, and Mr. Bolton was appointed by the county commissioners to fill out a term of eight months in that office expiring in September, 1897. At the expiration of that time he was appointed engineer of Findlay by the city council, and served in that office from September 1, 1897, until June 1, 1900. In the fall of 1899 he had been elected county engineer for a term of three years, and took charge of his office shortly after finishing his service with the city.

Mr. Bolton finds relief from business cares by social communion with his fellows in various fraternities, incliding the Masons, Elks and Knights of Pythias. Benjmain F. Bolton, father of this popular young official, who was born in Hancock county in 1848, is at present engaged in the insurance business at Findlay, and in one of the respected citizens of the place.

September 25, 1901, Mr. Bolton was united in marriage to Miss Dena Singleton, of Findlay, daughter of M. C. and Jennie Singleton. In politics Mr. Bolton is a Republican and was nominated September 6, 1902, for re-election to the position he was then holding.

DAVID B. SOLT.

David B. Solt has for twenty years been engaged in dealing in stock as a member of the firm of P. Solt & Company, of Eagle township. He makes his home two and a half miles east of Rawson and six miles southwest of Findlay, where he has a valuable property. He is widely known as a representative of agricultural interests, who through the exercise of business ability and unflagging enterprise has achieved success and won an honored name.

Born in Eagle township May 23, 1857, David B. Solt is the second son of Peter Solt, and upon the home farm he was reared. In his boyhood he began to assist his father by driving cattle, and thus he was employed until twenty-five years of age, when he was admitted to a partnership in his father's stock dealing operations under the present firm style of P. Solt & Company. The present firm consists of the father, who is the senior member, D. B. Solt, F. B. McClellan and Smith Hoy. Mr. McClellan and our subject handle the stock at Rawson and P. Solt and Mr. Hoy make Findlay their headquarters. This business relation has been maintained for twenty years and the firm has enjoyed the profits of a constantly growing business. They have handled stock on an extensive scale and their annual sales return

to them a good income. The subject of this review remained on his father's farm until his marriage, when he secured a farm of his own, and nine years ago he came to his present place of residence in Eagle township, not far from Rawson. Here he has eighty acres of rich and arable land. It is the old homestead farm of Daniel Raddebaugh, whose youngest daughter, Amy, became the wife of Mr. Solt.

This land was first improved by Daniel Raddebaugh, whose father had entered the land for him, although living in Fairfield county. The grandfather was Samuel Raddebaugh, who settled near Findlay and was killed six or seven years ago, his death resulting from a beating inflicted by robbers. His children were: John, who is now living on Benton ridge, in Liberty township, at the age of ninety years; Joseph, who also lived in that township and died at the age of seventy-five years; and Daniel, the father of Mrs. Solt. All aided materially in the upbuilding and improvement of Hancock county, the family being a prominent one of this portion of the state. Daniel Raddebaugh was united in marriage to Maria Hosler, and three years later removed to what is now the Solt farm, although he had previously come and built a cabin on the place. He made his permanent location about 1846. She was born July 27, 1825, in Pickaway county, Ohio, and there remained until her marriage, which occurred when she was eighteen years of age. Her last days were spent on the old homestead, where she departed this life December 11, 1901. In their family were eleven children, of whom one died in infancy, while nine are yet living, and George, who was a farmer of Wood county, Ohio, died at the age of forty-two years. Mrs. Solt is now the only one living in Eagle township, but Edmond and Jane are residents of this county. Monroe is living in Coldwater, Michigan; Jefferson makes his home in Minonk, Illinois; Edward is a resident of Findlay, Ohio; Lucy is living in Marion, this state; Anna is in Bluffton, Ohio; and Ellis is a minister of the Evangelical church, at Bluffton. The father still resides upon the old home place and has now reached an advanced age.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Solt was celebrated April 8, 1880, when the lady was seventeen years of age. Their home has been blessed with five daughters: Pearl May, now the wife of Thaddeus Keller, of Eagle township; Elva Dale, Jessie Fremont, Dora Olive and Eva Milburn, all with their parents, the family circle yet remaining unbroken by the hand of death.

Mr. Solt has continued to improve his farm since locating thereon, remodeling the house, building a barn and adding many modern equipments

and accessories. He also has two other farms in Eagle township, comprising altogether three hundred and twenty acres, and two of these he operates, the well-tilled fields yielding to him a good return. He usually feeds quite a large number of cattle annually. He has eight producing oil wells upon the home place, but has confined his attention to agricultural pursuits and stock dealing, in which he has met with very creditable success. He is a working member of the Republican party and attends its conventions. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Rawson, in which he is serving as a trustee. His interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare is deep and sincere and his hearty co-operation has been given to many measures for the public benefit.

C. A. CARPENTER.

In the popular mind the blacksmith has always been associated with robustness of physique, cheery temperament which comes from good health and honesty of purpose in all the affairs of life. No poem has been more admired and quoted than Longfellow's famous tribute to the "Village Blacksmith," and the wholesome, heartfelt utterances in this popular production have thrown a charm around the "anvil chorus" of the old corner shop that constituted an ideal occupation in the mind of every reader. The blacksmith is always an important character in the community, not only on account of the indispensable work that he does, but because as a general thing the personage who presides over the bellows and the musical hammer is man of sturdy honesty and genial personality. To this honorable guild the subject of this sketch has belonged for many years, and those who know him will admit that he is a typical blacksmith of the old school and in every way a worthy representative of his class. He is a son of Orson C. Carpenter, who was born in the state of New York in 1820 and moved to Indiana, where he lived at various places and at the time of his death was a miller in Steuben county. His son, C. A. Carpenter, was born in 1852 while his parents were living on a farm in Allen county, Indiana. He lived there until nine years old, when he went with his father to the village of Flint, where he attended the public schools and grew to manhood. At the age of seventeen years he apprenticed himself to learn the blacksmith's trade, a calling for which he exhibited a natural adaptability. After he had thoroughly mastered all the details and become a journeyman in the business, he followed it at Flint until 1877, when he opened a shop at Corona, Indiana. He remained at that place until 1881, when he removed to Findlay and entered the employment of

Coons, Adams & Co., now Adams Bros., in their foundry, which occupied his time for sixteen months. At the expiration of that period he opened a blacksmith shop of his own, which he has since continued to conduct with the energy that characterizes all his movements. Mr. Carpenter's specialty has been horseshoeing, both plain and fancy, and in this line he has established a reputation second to no mechanic of his class in the community. That he has been successful in his pursuits and "Gathered gear by every wile that's justified by honor," is evidenced by the fact that he has recently completed a handsome brick business block on North Main street in Findlay.

Mr. Carpenter has been twice married. In 1873 he was joined in wedlock at Flint, Indiana, with Charlotte Merritt, daughter of Daniel Merritt, a farmer, and she died in 1878, leaving two children: Claude G., aged twenty-four, and Lura, aged twenty-seven. In 1882 he was united in marriage with Miss Katie O., daughter of Jonathan K. Kissel, a carpenter and joiner, by whom he has one daughter named Mina, born March 29, 1886. Mr. Carpenter has always been a Democrat in politics and was honored by election to the city council of Findlay as representative from the First ward, which normally gives a Republican majority of one hundred and twenty-five. This tribute to his personal popularity was shown to be deserved by the satisfactory manner in which he served his term of two years. Mr. Carpenter is not connected with any church but shows his fondness for fraternal fellowship by holding membership in the Tribe of Ben Hur, the Elks, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics and the Daughters of America.

Samuel Carpenter, the grandfather of our subject, a native of New York, was a carpenter in his early days and later a farmer. He lived about ninety years.

JOSEPH S. PATTERSON.

Only the "oldest inhabitants" can remember the time when the name of Patterson was not connected with the dry goods business at Findlay. Beginning in the spring of 1849, Mr. Patterson has been connected with the city's mercantile interests for fifty-three consecutive years, changing firms occasionally, but always remaining either as partner or principal in the business. Thus he is entitled to rank as the dean of the dry goods corps at Findlay and as one of the oldest merchants in the state in point of years of service. He inherited his taste for this business and acquired qualifications for its pursuits in early youth, as his father had been a dry goods merchant of long standing. The family is of Irish origin, and for the purposes of this biography begins with the subject's grandfather, James Patterson, who was min-

J. A. Patterson

inister of the Established church in Ireland, and ended his days in his native land. His son, Robert Patterson, was born in north Ireland in 1789, came to Ohio in 1811 and located first in Licking county and later at Bellefontaine, where he was connected with mercantile affairs for half a century. He established himself in the dry goods business, at first in a small way, but enlarging as prosperity came until at the time of his death, in 1867, he had acquired rank as the leader in his line in that part of the state. In 1819 he married Eliza, daughter of Joseph Moore, of Licking county, by whom he had nine children as follows: Mary E., Lydia Ann, Elizabeth, Edward, Joseph S., James McG., Sarah Jane, Isabelle McKee and Robert E.

Joseph S. Patterson, who, as will be seen from the above list, is the fifth of the children, was born at Bellefontaine, Logan county, Ohio, November 25, 1827. He remained at home attending school until sixteen years old, and in March, 1843, came alone to Hancock county, engaged as clerk in a store at Findlay and held that position for the following six years. In March, 1849, he acquired an interest in the dry goods store of Frederick Henderson, and under the firm name of Henderson & Patterson the business was continued at the old stand for three years. At the end of that time the firm, by reorganization and the introduction of new capital, became J. S. Patterson & Company, continuing as such until 1857, when Mr. Patterson retired and opened another store in connection with Milton Taylor. This new firm of Patterson & Taylor conducted business until the dissolution of the partnership in 1865, when still another dry goods store was opened, in charge of J. S. Patterson & Sons, which continued to the present time. The only break in the continuity of Mr. Patterson's career as a merchant occurred in 1857, when he was appointed agent at Findlay and had charge of the warehouse of what was then known as the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, which position he occupied for one year and then returned to the dry goods business.

Mr. Patterson was married in 1853, to Minerva, daughter of William Taylor, and has two children, Charles W. and Frank T., who constitute the "sons" of the present well known dry goods firm. Thirty-seven years have elapsed since their father took them into partnership, and during this period they have shared in the reputation for fair dealing and commercial honesty long maintained by the firm of J. S. Patterson & Sons. Not only as merchants but as citizens in all the relations of life they stand well in the community of Findlay. Mr. Patterson's religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church, and though Republican in politics is not an aspirant in that direction, his entire officeholding during his long career being confined to

service for three years in the Findlay city council. He was chairman of the building committee for the erection of the new Presbyterian church at Findlay and treasurer of the old Presbyterian church at the time it was erected in 1855. Charles W. Patterson, the eldest of the sons, was born at Findlay in 1854, educated in the schools of this city and later attended Wooster College and since 1875 has been engaged in the merchandise business. In 1882 he was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Dunn, of Columbus, Ohio. Frank T., the other son, born at Findlay in 1862, educated in the schools of this city, and is now a member of the firm. He was married in 1887 to Miss Mame Vance, of Findlay.

SAMUEL M. BIGGS.

Samuel M. Biggs, who was an enterprising farmer of Eagle township and a man of unquestioned probity and sterling worth, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1828, his parents being Llewellyn and Martha (McGrew) Biggs. The family comes of English ancestry and Llewellyn Biggs, the grandfather of our subject, was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary struggle which brought independence to the colonies. After arriving at years of maturity the father of our subject was married to Miss Mahala Kelly, who survived her marriage but a short time. Unto them were born four children, Ellen, Llewellyn, Martha and William. In 1858 the father came to Hancock county, Ohio, and engaged in contracting and building, making his headquarters in Liberty township, west of Findlay. On the 13th of May, 1860, he was joined in wedlock to Sarah J., daughter of William and Elizabeth (Buchanan) Yates, who resided on the present Biggs homestead, four and a half miles west of Findlay, on the Lima road. Her father entered this tract of land in the early '30s, at which time he was living in Guernsey county, Ohio. He was born in Pennsylvania and at an early day settled in this state. His brother Samuel came to Hancock county after the arrival of William and settled in the same neighborhood. It was in the year 1844 that William Yates brought his family to Eagle township, his daughter Sarah being then ten years of age, and began to develop and improve a farm. The family home was a log cabin and for a few years they lived in true pioneer style, but gradually secured all the comforts which they had known in their old home and which were common in the east. As the years passed the father tilled his fields and his labors brought large crops which materially augmented his income. He owned two hundred and forty acres of land in the old homestead and as his financial resources increased he

added to his property until his landed possessions aggregated one thousand acres. He thus became one of the extensive farmers and large landowners of the county and was also largely engaged in stock-raising and dealing, making shipments to city markets. As long as he lived he remained the active manager of his business interests, never relegating to others the control of his affairs. About 1857 he erected the brick residence which now stands upon his farm and it was in this house that his daughter, Mrs. Biggs, was married.

It was also in that same house that Mr. Yates died on the 15th of April, 1891, when he had reached the age of eighty-four years, one month and three days. His wife had previously passed away, her death having occurred January 11, 1871. In the family of this worthy and honored couple were eight children: Samuel, who lived in Eagle township and died at the age of sixty-seven years; Phoebe Ann, who became the wife of Andrew Powell, of Liberty township, and died at the age of twenty-eight years; William, who enlisted in the Union army as a member of the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry and died in the hospital during his term of service; Eliza, who became the wife of Alva Fink, of Eagle township, and died at the age of fifty years; Sarah J.; Thomas, who was also a member of the Twenty-first Regiment of Ohio Volunteers and was killed at Stone river; Elizabeth, the wife of Andrew Fellers, of Bowling Green, Kentucky; and Joseph, who died in Eagle township, at the age of fifty-five years.

William Yates was an active Democrat in his political affiliations and served as township assessor and county commissioner. He also belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, holding membership in DeLeal chapel, which was then a strong congregation, but the organization ceased to exist and no vestige of the church now remains. His was an honorable and upright life, characterized by activity and trustworthiness in business, by loyalty in citizenship and by faithfulness to friends and family.

After the marriage of Samuel Biggs and Sarah Yates they lived upon a part of her father's farm and he continued to follow his trade. After her mother's death they took charge of the property and bought one-half of the farm, and at the settlement of the estate purchased the remainder of the other heirs, thus becoming owners of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land. Mr. Biggs then gave his attention entirely to agricultural pursuits and Mr. Yates, her father, made his home with them for several years prior to his death. In the work of caring for the farm Mr. Biggs was energetic, followed progressive methods and prospered in his undertakings.

The home was blessed with five children: Elizabeth E., Ada I., Emma D., the wife of W. S. Fortune, of Findlay, Ohio, Lemuel S. and Arna W.

The two eldest daughters and Arna W. own the old home place and operate it in partnership. The father died August 23, 1899, and although he had been ailing for some time his death came suddenly. His wife survived him until January 23, 1902, when she, too, passed away, after having been in failing health for a year. He was a stanch Republican, attended party conventions and was a man of considerable local influence. He kept well informed on the issues of the day and was always ready to support his views by intelligent argument. He also read widely on other topics, including current events and general history. Both he and his wife held membership in the Pleasant Grove United Brethren church, which stood on her father's farm, and they took an active part in church work, being strict observers of its rules and teaching and well informed on Bible questions. They were laid to rest in Hartman cemetery, where her parents also sleep, and thus passed away a couple whose genuine worth was widely acknowledged and who left behind them many warm friends to mourn their loss.

SURREL PEARSON DeWOLF.

As city clerk, auditor of Hancock county, and business manager of the Republican newspaper, Mr. DeWolf has been kept rather prominently before the public for a number of years. The position he has held enabled him to exercise influence, and this has always been exerted so as to most efficiently aid worthy causes and best advance the public welfare. The family is of French extraction but so long domesticated in the United States that all of France has disappeared save the turn of the name. The Ohio branch originated in Butler county, Pennsylvania, where Eli G. DeWolf was born in 1838 and learned the printer's trade as he grew from youth to manhood, having thus early acquainted a taste for "the art preservative" he never afterward lost it, as his whole subsequent life was devoted to the newspaper business. Having removed to Ohio in 1863 he purchased the "Pike County Republican," a weekly paper published at Waverly, and conducted it until the close of the war, after which for several years he held the position of foreman of the "Ohio State Journal" at Columbus. In 1868 he came to Findlay, and bought an interest in the "Weekly Jeffersonian," which he retained until 1876. Later he founded the "Daily Republican," with which he was connected until his death. In 1875 he was appointed postmaster of Findlay by President Grant, received a reappointment both from Presidents Hayes and Arthur, and thus served through three administrations. He was a genuine newspaper man in every respect, much wedded to his calling, possessing all the characteristics

of those who have "come up from the case," and his impress was left on every newspaper of which he had control. As running country newspapers is not a money-making business, he did not accumulate wealth, but he exercised a power as a writer which he never failed to use for the best purposes. His political predilections were earnestly Republican, and he gave that party most strenuous support both with tongue and pen until the end of his life in 1888.

Surrell Pearson DeWolf was born on his father's farm in Butler county, Pennsylvania, November 5, 1860, and was eight years old when his parents located at Findlay. In 1886 he became business manager of the "Republican," in which he and his father, Eli G. DeWolf, owned a controlling interest, and had charge of the paper about four years. In 1892 he was elected city clerk of Findlay, obtained a re-election in 1894, and served four years in this office. In November, 1895, he was elected auditor of Hancock county on the Republican ticket, being the first Republican auditor in the history of the county, and assumed charge of his office in the following year at the expiration of his term of service with the city. In 1898 Mr. DeWolf was re-elected auditor of the county, in 1900 resumed his position as business manager of the "Republican" and in 1901 became managing editor of that journal.

In 1880, Mr. DeWolf was united in marriage at Findlay with Miss Emma B. Brown, and has two children: Clarke F. and Metta A. Clarke F. DeWolf enlisted as a private in Company M, Thirty-fifth Regiment, United States Volunteers at the beginning of the Spanish-American war and served eighteen months in the Philippines. Mr. DeWolf's fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

ISAAC DAVIS.

William Davis, deceased, was one of the well known representative men of Hancock county. He was a native of Maryland, and a man of much worth. It is safe to say that he was a self-made man in that full acceptation of the term. Educated in a limited degree, and reared where slavery prevailed, this training was not a very excellent foundation for true manhood and noble character, yet William Davis reached the one and built firmly and well on the other. He came to this county in 1832, where he located in Marion township and purchased at various times land to the amount of seven hundred and forty acres. All of this is now in the oil and gas belt in Hancock county and of course exceedingly valuable land. This property was accumulated by honest dealing and hard and earnest toil. He was elected to

the office of county commissioner in which he served two terms most acceptably, and also served for a period of thirty-two years as justice of the peace of his township. During his active life he was connected with every enterprise that was meant to advance the interests of education and religion in his township and county, and left a memory to be revered by his descendants. In 1828 he married Margaret Lafferty, who bore him ten children: Mary A., Isaac, the subject of this sketch, John W., Elizabeth, Dr. A. L., Rachel B., Sarah, David, Edward B., and a younger one now deceased. The father of this family died in 1863, his wife surviving him many years and passing away in 1896. The grandfather of our subject was Henry Davis, who married Margaret Craig, and by whom he had seven children. After her death, which occurred early in life, he married for his second wife Betsey Hammond, who was the mother of five children. Henry Davis came to Hancock county in 1850. He was a man of sterling character, and during his life here was revered for his many noble qualities.

Isaac Davis, whose name heads this article, was born in Marion township, Hancock county, in 1837. The Davis family is of Welsh descent, and our subject shows many of the noble traits of that strain of the Anglo-Saxon race. He has tried to follow in the footsteps of his honored father, both as a business man and as a loyal citizen. He has never aspired to office, being of a retired and quiet disposition, but he is found at all times loyal to his county and to his country. He is the owner of six hundred acres of land, on which there are forty wells of oil and gas. He has held some of the minor offices of his township, more for the purpose of accommodation for his fellow citizens than from the fact that he cared for public life. He served a term or two as justice of the peace. In addition to his farm he has a seed and wool warehouse in Findlay which he has operated for the last seventeen years. He was married in 1860 to Miss Caroline Gifford and the children of this union are: Howard V., deceased; William, Florence, David C., George W., Gertrude and Henry. Mrs. Caroline Davis was born in this county in 1840, on the farm where she now resides.

WILLIAM FISHER.

William Fisher, now a farmer of Cass township, Hancock county, is a member of that noble band of men who in the dark days of the Civil war offered their lives in defense of the Union, and he presents the remarkable experience of having been an inmate of the noted rebel prison, Andersonville, and escaped with his life.

He was born at Wittenberg, Germany, October 3, 1840, and is a son of John and Frederica (Staley) Fisher. They reared their family in the old country, and in 1857 crossed the ocean to make their homes in this land of the free. They located in Cass township, purchasing a farm of eighty acres partially improved, which property is now in the hands of one of their sons, Philip. The family are members of the Lutheran church. In his native country John Fisher was a prominent man and held an office somewhat similar to that of sheriff in our county. This office he administered for fifteen years, with satisfaction to the government of William I. His family consisted of seven children, four of whom are now residents of the county. The father died in 1872 and his wife six years previously.

William Fisher was a sturdy lad of seventeen years and possessed of a good education when he crossed the sea with his parents. He arrived at a most opportune time to engage in one of the greatest struggles for freedom that has ever been noted in history. He was full of the fire and vigor of youth and so delighted was he with his surroundings and so elated over the prospects of becoming a citizen of the greatest nation on the earth, that at the first boom of the cannon he offered himself a willing sacrifice upon the altar of his adopted country. He served the nation well and loyally for three long years as a member of Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, participating in many severe and bloody battles. Among these were Pittsburg Landing, siege of Vicksburg, the picturesque charge at Missionary Ridge, and on the Atlanta campaign. In this campaign he was taken prisoner and for three months experienced the horrors of Andersonville prison. He was finally exchanged and then discharged from the service. He enrolled in 1861 and was discharged in 1865, and was one of the very best of General William T. Sherman's fighting men. In these days of peace he looks back with great satisfaction on this period of his life. On returning from the war he was united in marriage to Miss Matilda, daughter of Henry Camps, one of Hancock county's old pioneer families. The union was blessed with nine children: Henry, Philip, Kate, Ellen, William, Scott, Lizzie, Nora and David. The mother was born in Hancock county in 1845. Mr. Fisher purchased his present farm soon after his marriage and has since resided thereon. It was very largely virgin soil, and it has required an immense amount of hard labor to bring it to its present productive state. He first built a rude log house, but as prosperity come to him, he erected a more comfortable residence, and in later years modernized this commodious home so that he is now in the possession of one of the most comfortable rural homes in the county. He cultivates a farm of one hundred and ninety-four acres with

great success. The chief characteristic of Mr. Fisher is his love for hard work, one of his maxims being that honest toil hurts no man. He is a good neighbor, loyal citizen and worthy Christian gentleman who unites many excellent qualities of heart and mind.

ELIPHES WANAMAKER.

The gentleman above named is one of the well-to-do men of Findlay, where he enjoys high standing in financial circles and the business world generally. He is an example of the class, often met with in this free country, who begin life with few advantages, but by skill, prudence and industry achieve great results for themselves. They also disprove the cry, occasionally heard, that there is no longer any opportunity for young men, owing to the great accumulation of capital in a few hands and the tendency to consolidation. On the contrary, the opportunities are here in abundance, and they are of many different kinds, all that is necessary being the right kind of men to take advantage of them. And Eliphes Wanamaker is one of this kind, who found his opportunity early in life and so utilized it that before reaching middle life he had become a man of wealth and influence. The name suggests Pennsylvania, in which it has long been a familiar one and belonged to some notable people who have made it well known throughout the Union. Peter Wanamaker, grandfather of our subject, lived and died in the old Keystone state. His son, Lewis Wanamaker, was born in Westmoreland county in 1825, followed farming all his life and passed away at his old Pennsylvania home in 1897. On this farm in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1849, was born his son, Eliphes Wanamaker, and there he received his early training and education. When sixteen years of age he began casting around for employment and decided to learn the carpenter's trade, but after two years in this occupation concluded that he could find something better. Young as he was, he had already noticed the promise of great fortunes held out by the oil industry and he determined to turn his attention in this direction. Making his way to Venango county, one of the centers in the oil field, he engaged as a tool dresser with a view to learning that line of business, which offered especial inducements to skillful mechanics at that time. "One thing leads on to another," as the old proverb has it, and by the time he was twenty-one Mr. Wanamaker was hard at work as a driller of oil wells. This, however, was only a step in the direction toward which his ambition led, and after drilling for others about four years, he commenced contracting for oil wells on his own account, which continued to be

his regular business from that time on. In 1885 he transferred his scene of operations to Hancock county, Ohio, and from that year has been a permanent resident of Findlay. As the result of his skillful management, good judgment of property and wisdom in the handling of his resources, Mr. Wanamaker can now show an abundance of this world's goods and ranks as one of the "solid" men of the city.

In 1872, at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, he was united in marriage with Miss Vina C., daughter of Jacob Mainhart, and this union has resulted in the birth of one daughter, Miss Verna V., who remains at home with her parents. Mr. Wanamaker's political affiliations have always been Democratic, though he has neither sought nor cared for office of any kind. His fraternal connections are with the Odd Fellows and encampment and lodge No. 85, Knights of Pythias. His religious beliefs are in line with those of the Lutheran church, of which he has been an adherent for some years.

THOMAS F. GILLESPIE.

There could be no more fitting tribute to an ex-soldier than to make him a justice of the peace. Mr. Gillespie, upon whom has been conferred that honor, is descended from Revolutionary stock, and though all the signs of war have long since disappeared the strain of fearlessness and courage in the Gillespie family has not weakened in any way.

William Gillespie, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a soldier of the war of Independence and had a son Thomas, for whom the subject of this sketch was named. The latter's father was the Reverend John Gillespie, born in 1826 and died in Defiance county, Ohio, at about sixty-eight years of age.

Thomas F. Gillespie's career has been long and useful. He was born on a farm in Allen county in 1847, and there lived until he was fourteen years old, when his parents moved to Putnam county. On January 6, 1863, when he was but fifteen and one-half years of age, he enlisted in the Seventh Independent Company of Ohio Sharpshooters, attached to the Tenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Army of Tennessee, and which company acted as body guard to General Rosecrans. Young Gillespie went as a private and served eighteen months, when he was transferred to the Fourteenth United States Regulars (Infantry) and served until he was mustered out, which took place at the mouth of the Columbia river, on the Pacific coast, January 6, 1866. Mr. Gillespie was at the battle of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Weldon Railroad, Virginia, between Petersburg and Richmond, at which

latter place he was severely wounded in the left hand, and was obliged to be away from his regiment until April, 1865.

On receiving his discharge he went to Putnam county and farmed for a year, when he decided to go to Defiance, where he learned cabinet making, and remained three years working at his trade. He then moved to Lima, Ohio, and for three years was employed in the car works of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad. He afterwards lived in Paulding county two years, working at the carpenter's trade, and moved from there to Dupont, where he established himself in the undertaking and cabinet-making business, in which he continued for three years. He moved back to Paulding where he farmed until 1894, when he moved to Findlay. In 1900 he was elected justice of the peace, he having previously served in that capacity at Dupont. He has held this office since his first election.

Our subject was first married in 1867 to Emma L. Boutelle, who died in 1873, leaving four children, as follows: Charles A.; Albert L.; Guilford L.; and Jennie, wife of Charles H. Terry. Mr. Gillespie was again married, in 1878 to Emma C. Pease, and they have five children: Nettie; Leona, widow of Harry Farquhar; Cloyd; Phoebe L. and Myrtle E.

As a loyal patriot Mr. Gillespie is a member of G. A. R., Stoker Post, No. 54, and also of the Union Veterans. His fraternal associations are with the Masons and Knights of Pythias. He is a strong Republican of the old school, and is an active member of the Church of God of Findlay.

JESSE SHILLING.

The eminent position which Hancock county has attained as a leading one in the state is in a large measure due to the class of citizens which make up so large a proportion of her agricultural population. Among those who have succeeded and become substantial pillars of the county through their own well directed and intelligent efforts is Jesse Shilling, who has owned property here for many years. He was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, on the 12th of November, 1830. His father, Adam Shilling, was a native of Germany, but when fourteen years of age he left his little home across the sea and came to the United States, locating with his mother in Pennsylvania. Subsequently he took up his abode in Mahoning county, Ohio, and in Burlington township, that county, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Mown. She was born in Mahoning county, but was reared in Trumbull county, Ohio. In 1852 Mr. and Mrs. Shilling came to Hancock county, taking up their abode on a farm in Orange township, two and a half miles northeast of our subject's

present homestead, and there these worthy old pioneers spent the remainder of their days, the father passing away at the age of seventy-four years, while the mother reached the seventy-fifth milestone on the journey of life. They were the parents of ten children, nine of whom grew to years of maturity. Adam Shilling, the father, was a worthy member of the Lutheran Reformed church, and in his political affiliations was a Republican.

Jesse Shilling, the third child and eldest son in order of birth in the above family, accompanied his parents on their removal to Hancock county in 1852, and prior to his removal to this locality he was engaged in agricultural pursuits in the county of his nativity. Farming has been his life-long occupation, and in 1850 he located on his present valuable homestead in Orange township, but at the time of purchase the land was still in its primitive condition. He has cleared it of its dense growth of timber, has placed his fields under a fine state of cultivation, and his place of one hundred and twenty acres is now one of the valuable ones of his community.

The marriage of Mr. Shilling was celebrated in 1856, when Elizabeth Main became his wife. She, too, is a native of the old Buckeye state, for her birth occurred in Delaware county, Ohio, and by her marriage she has become the mother of one daughter, Lucinda Jane, who is now the wife of George Kinnell, of Bluffton, Ohio. A life-long supporter of Republican principles, Mr. Shilling cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln in 1860, and has ever since been a stalwart supporter of the grand old party. He is well and favorably known throughout Hancock county, where he has hosts of friends.

PERRY VAN HORN.

The Van Horns, as the name would seem to indicate, were originally from Holland, but emigrated at an early period in the history of the United States and found lodgment in Pennsylvania. In 1833 Charles and Sarah Van Horn joined the tide of migration to Ohio and located in Hancock county, where they entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Amanda township and subsequently increased their holdings to the extent of four hundred additional acres. Along with them from the east came their son Robert, who was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in 1829, and was five years of age at the time of the removal. As Robert grew up he proved to be an obedient and industrious boy, eventually became prosperous and rose to a position of influence in his community. He married Evaline Frazer, a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, who came with her parents to Ohio about the time of the arrival of the Van Horns. This lady died in 1884,

but Robert Van Horn is still living in Hancock county, at the age of seventy-three years. Of their ten children nine grew to maturity and eight survive as substantial citizens of different communities.

Among this number is Perry Van Horn, who was born on his father's farm in Jackson township, Hancock county, Ohio, July 2, 1862. He was reared on the old homestead, received the usual training, and when of suitable age began to farm on his own account. In 1884 he made his first purchase of real estate, consisting of eighty acres, to which he later joined an additional one hundred and eighty-two and a half acres. By a subsequent sale of sixty-two and a half acres his estate was reduced to the two hundred acres which constitute his home place in Jackson township. His farm is well improved, lacking nothing to make it a desirable country seat, and is devoted to general agriculture, including the usual amount and variety of stock. Mr. Van Horn contents himself with raising the standard crops and animals, does not attempt anything in the line of "fancy farming" and the general result of his operations has been a steady growth toward prosperity.

In 1884 Mr. Van Horn married Gertrude Smith, who was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1865, her parents being William and Mary Smith. The result of this union is an only son, named Grant, born in 1886 and now a student in the school at Findlay.

W. C. DAMAN.

Among those who devote their attention to the business of farming and stock raising in Big Lick township, Hancock county, is the above named gentleman, who successfully operates a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres. The family of which he is an honored and worthy representative are of German ancestry. His father, John C. Daman, and his mother, Katherine Westerman, were natives of the fatherland, where they were married and subsequently emigrated to this country in 1830. Here they located in the old Buckeye state, chosing Columbiana county as their home and where they remained up to 1839, that being the date of their removal to Big Lick township. This was in the earlier history of the county, when much of the farming land was in its primitive state, and the carving out of a farm meant long hours of unremitting toil. They purchased forty acres to which they added until it was increased to sixty-five acres, and passed their lives in its cultivation. It is worthy to note that John C. Daman was a man who met every responsibility in life with credit. In the old country he had been a soldier in the German army, and had served out his time in his country's service. He took part in

many of the campaigns conducted by the German army, and carried upon his body the scars of wounds received, and showed the marks of the hardships through which he had passed in the various campaigns. So severe had been the service that his constitution became impaired, and the latter part of his life was passed in very indifferent health. He died in 1848. The wife lived for a number of years after, her death having occurred in 1873. The family consisted of eight children, only two of whom are now living, Justice Daman, residing now in the county of Gratiot, Michigan, and W. C. Daman, of whom we are pleased to write. This gentleman was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1836, the date being December 31. He passed the period of his boyhood in the grinding toil of farm life in that early day, but it had for one of its rewards the construction of a physical frame that has carried him successfully through his subsequent career. Arriving at manhood he resolved to devote his life to the pursuit of agriculture, and purchasing the farm upon which he now resides, in 1858, he began the construction of his home. He has at various times added to the original purchase, both in land and improvements, and is at present in possession of a farm which is looked upon as a model one in Hancock county. Marriage came to Mr. Daman in 1864, his first wife having been Angeline Measel, by whom he had two children: Flora and Warren W. The second lady's maiden name was Ellen McEwen, and two of her children are now living, Celestia and Charles W., while one is deceased. By his third wife, whose maiden name was Lou Sleymaker, he became the father of a son named Frank. The present wife of Mr. Daman was Mrs. Phoebe Edwards, whom he married in 1885. To this union has been born Bessie, deceased, Edith, Frances E., and John D.

Mr. and Mrs. Daman are highly respected residents of the township, and are active and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which organization he is a trustee and steward. They are numbered among Hancock county's best citizens, and as such the author of this volume present them to its readers.

Dr. JOSEPH R. McLEOD.

Findlay has always kept pace with the foremost towns of Ohio in professional as well as business affairs, and that it has been selected as the home of some of the best medical men of the state is but an evidence that the people of Findlay demand a high class of services from this branch of scientific men.

Dr. Joseph McLeod is of Scotch ancestry. His grandfather, Captain John McLeod, was born in London, England, in 1780, but came to America in his

early manhood, seeking a home in the new country. He was for a time captain of a volunteer company in Philadelphia, during the war of 1812. Our subject's father was also John McLeod, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1809. He came to Ohio in his early manhood, where he lived until 1865, when he removed to Missouri, where he lived to a good old age and died in 1898. Dr. McLeod was united in marriage in 1862 in Findlay to Mary E., daughter of Captain Samuel Howard, and they now have three children living, as follows: Charles D., born July 25, 1863, who followed his father's profession and practices medicine at Chatfield, this state; Samuel Howard, born in 1870, who lives at Findlay and is in the employ of the United States postal authorities; Bessie B., who is the wife of William P. Wisley, of Findlay, the president of the People's Ice and Coal Company.

The subject's life and experiences form an interesting chapter in the records of Findlay and are here given. He was born on a farm in Delaware county, Ohio, in 1833, though he was taken by his parents when one year old to Amanda township, in Hancock county. He lived for many years on a farm and attended the country schools, completing this part of his education at the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware. He returned to Hancock county and taught school from the age of seventeen to twenty-nine years, having begun the study of medicine at home. The study of law attracted him equally, and he was admitted to the bar in 1863, having graduated in law in that year from the law department of the Cincinnati College. He located in Findlay in 1863 and practiced there for one year, at the end of which time his country claimed him, and he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private. He was at once made corporal and served in that capacity four months. On being mustered out he returned to Findlay, though he did not elect to take up his residence there at that time. In the spring of 1865 he went to Shelbyville, Missouri, to try new fields, where he went into the practice of law. In 1876, desiring to further pursue the course of medical study he went to Keokuk, Iowa, to attend two courses at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, from which college he received his diploma in 1877. Believing Hancock county to be a good field in which to locate, he returned to the county which had so long been his home and located at Mt. Cory, where he practiced for three years. He later moved to Benton Ridge in the same county, where he lived and practiced his profession for eight years, and on the first of January, 1889, came to Findlay, where he has since lived and built up an enviable practice.

Dr. McLeod is of that strong order of Masons which has a large chapter in Findlay; his other fraternal association is with the Odd Fellows. His

wide study of the law was recognized at the time he resided in Shelbyville in a substantial manner, he having held the office of presiding judge of the county court for six years during his residence there. He gave up the practice of law on account of ill health and took up the practice of medicine.

GEORGE H. SMITH.

When the tide of emigration was setting in strongly from Germany to the United States about the middle of the last century, Ohio was fortunate in securing many of the best of that very desirable population. They settled in great numbers at Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and other cities of the state whose rapid growth was largely due to this diffusion of German blood, accompanied by the thrift and industry so characteristic of that race. Many of these people, however, went inland and settled on farms where they applied those qualities of economy and good judgment which never fail to bring success to their possessors in whatever pursuit they may engage. Among those who came from the fatherland at the period mentioned were Henry and Albertina (Tagler) Smith, who arrived in Seneca county, Ohio, about 1854, and located at Fostoria. They were poor in this world's goods, bringing with them little more than was sufficient to pay expenses, but to use an American expression, they soon "caught on" as farmers in a small way on rented land. Henry Smith was practical in his methods, strict in his notions of right and wrong, a good judge of men, and withal a hard working and painstaking man. These qualities enabled him to save a little money, and when, in 1868, he removed to Hancock county he was able to purchase forty acres of timber land in Pleasant township. This he cleared and cultivated with his usual energy, subsequently sold to advantage and bought a larger farm in Blanchard township, consisting of eighty acres. Here he spent the remainder of his days, improving his property and constantly adding to its value by his thorough system of farming and when the final summons came was able to leave something to his children. He and his good wife were members of the Lutheran church, exemplary in their conduct, upright in their lives and respected by all as neighbors and friends. They passed away within two years of each other, the wife dying in 1896 and the husband in 1898. The family consisted of seven children, of whom six are still living: Sarah, William, Eliza, George H., John and Della.

George H. Smith, with whom this biography is principally concerned, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, October 9, 1862, and was consequently about six years old when his parents removed to Pleasant township. He

grew up and received his primary education after the settlement in Hancock county, and was trained by his father to work on the farm. In the course of time he became the owner of the homestead in Blanchard township, where as boy and man he has resided since 1872. This place he has managed with the same industry and care that characterized his excellent father, and as a general farmer and stockraiser he has held his own with others of his class in that part of the county. As a plain, unpretentious man of good habits and moral life he enjoys and fully deserves the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

In 1887 Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Della, daughter of John and Sarah Fry, which union has proven congenial and pleasant in every way. Their children, four in number, are thus recorded in the family register: Charles F., born May 8, 1889; Grace M., born March 17, 1891; Olive N., born October 10, 1898; and Mabel R., born May 30, 1901. Mrs. Smith is a native of Blanchard township, her birth having occurred August 29, 1867, and is a devoted member of the United Brethren church, of which her husband is a trustee and has long been a leader and earnest worker.

THOMAS M. MITCHELL.

One of the most important industries developed in Ohio in recent years is that connected with the working of the oil district, and Thomas M. Mitchell is a well known representative of this line of activity, being an oil producer of Findlay, Ohio. He is numbered among Hancock county's native sons, for his birth occurred in Portage township, in the year 1869, his parents being Jacob and Emiline (Cusac) Mitchell, the former a successful farmer still living in the county. The paternal grandfather was George Mitchell, who died in 1892 at the age of ninety-one years. Thomas M. Mitchell was educated in his native township and remained there until 1900, when he took up his abode in Findlay. Three years previously, however, he had abandoned farming, which had hitherto been his occupation, and turned his attention to oil producing, buying a lease of thirteen and now he and his brother own thirty oil wells in Hancock county, many of which are excellent producers. The firm is enjoying a good business, the oil which they place upon the market bringing to them a substantial annual income.

In the year 1898, in Portage township, Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage to Christina Moorhead, a daughter of W. M. Moorhead, and their home has been blessed with one interesting daughter, Nora Mabel. Mrs. Mitchell's father was a son of Josiah and Sarah Moorhead, and a successful farmer of Hancock county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell have many

F. M. Mitchell & Wife.

warm friends throughout this portion of the state and are held in high regard. In his political views Mr. Mitchell is a Democrat, and while he keeps well informed on the issues of the day and believes firmly in the principles of his party, he has never sought or desired office, preferring to give his attention to his business affairs, which are so capably conducted that his labors have already brought to him a good return.

PHILIPP SCHWINN.

That sturdy element of our population which has come from Germany has long been well represented in Ohio, and has been greatly instrumental in the development of leading interests of the commonwealth. One of the best known sons of the fatherland in Hancock county is Philipp Schwinn, a prominent agriculturist of Union township. His birth occurred in Germany, and in that country his parents, Philipp and Margaret Schwinn, also had their nativity. In 1842 they bade farewell to their native land and sailed for the United States, taking up their abode in Union township, Hancock county, Ohio, where they purchased a farm of eighty acres. At the time of the purchase only forty acres of the place had been cleared, but with the assistance of his sons the father was soon able to clear and improve the entire tract, and this became one of the most productive farms of the locality. In his native country Mr. Schwinn was a baker, and also took much pleasure in raising the material from which this commodity is made. He was successful in his business affairs, but his prosperity was the result of earnest and persistent effort in the line of honorable and manly dealing. The children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Schwinn were seven in number, six of whom grew to years of maturity, and four are now residents of Hancock county. The mother died ere the removal of the family to America, passing away in Germany in 1842, and the father survived until 1883, when he, too, passed into eternal rest.

Philipp Schwinn, the subject of this memoir, received his early mental training in the district schools of Union township, Hancock county, and after his school days were over and before reaching his majority he made the long and arduous journey to the Golden state, believing that he might there obtain the necessary means with which to purchase a farm. Five years were spent on the Pacific slope, during one year of which time he worked in the gold mines, while for the following four he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. His hopes of obtaining wealth in the far off state of California were fully realized, for after an absence of only five years he was able to return to Hancock

county with twenty-five hundred dollars. Arriving here in 1867, he soon purchased his present farm, which was then wild and unimproved, but he went to work with a determination to succeed and soon his swampy wilderness was converted into one of the most fertile and productive farms of the locality. The homestead consists of one hundred acres, where he is engaged in general farming, and all of the improvements on this valuable tract stand as monuments to his thrift and excellent business ability.

In 1883 occurred the marraige of Mr. Schwinn and Miss Mamie Wild. The lady was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of June, 1854, and is a daughter of Adam and Barbara Wild. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children,—Adam, Mary, William and Elmer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schwinn are worthy members of the Lutheran church, and in his fraternal relations the former is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in Rawson Lodge, in which he is a past grand. He is a man of strong mentality, of splendid business ability and is frank and genial in manner. His business associates find him reliable and trustworthy, and he is an enterprising and successful farmer. He has seven producing oil wells on his farm.

JACOB NAU.

For solid qualities of character and intrinsic worth no foreign element exceeds that which comes to us from the fatherland. We here present the name of one of the former subjects of Emperor William, but who now is giving allegiance to the institutions of our beloved republic. Mr. Jacob Nau is an enterprising farmer, who resides in Washington township, where he tills most successfully eighty acres of the most valuable land in Hancock county. The birth of Mr. Nau occurred in Germany on the 5th of June, 1847, he being the son of John and Regina (Wertz) Nau. Both of these parents were natives of the province of Wurtemberg, Germany, where the family had for centuries made its impress upon society for good. They emigrated to this country in 1853, and coming immediately to the Buckeye state, purchased forty acres of land in Seneca county. They resided upon this land a number of years, but eventually sold it and removed to Washington township, Hancock county, where they lived out the remainder of their lives, respected residents of their immediate community. The father died here in 1896, his wife following in 1898. They had six children, two of whom died in the fatherland, and one in this country. Those now living are Jacob, the subject of this review, and Elizabeth and Dortha.

Jacob Nau was but six years of age when brought to this country, and received in the schools of Seneca county a fair education, to which he has added extensively, being of an inquiring and observant disposition. Arriving at years of maturity he apprenticed himself to the carpenter's trade, at which he worked with much skill and profit up to the time of his marriage. This event occurred in 1871, the lady being Theresa, the daughter of G. W. and Ellen Burgess. This union resulted in the birth of six children: Ellen, born February 24, 1873; J. W., March 1, 1875; Mertie, October 15, 1877; Blanche, September 4, 1880; Bertha, August 13, 1885; and Roy, who was born on the 20th of October, 1890. The mother of this family, whose parents were from Virginia, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, November 26, 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Nau are prominent and active members of the United Brethren church, of which organization Mr. Nau is a trustee. A few moments conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Nau disclose the fact that they are of more than average intelligence, being able to converse very freely on the general topics of the day. He is proud to call himself a self-made man, having carved out in a large measure his own fortune. He began his career as a poor boy, but by the application of that German thrift which is proverbial he forged ahead, and others were willing that he should do so, for he was made of the right material to win. His success was not earned at the expense of his associates. He bought his present farm in 1882, and has since continued to operate it successfully. In the public life of the community, he has borne his share of the unpaid labor, having held the office of township trustee for a number of terms with credit to himself. Mr. and Mrs. Nau deserve and receive the good wishes of a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

JOHN D. ANDERSON.

In a record of those who have been prominently identified with the development and progress of Hancock county it is imperative that definite consideration be granted to the subject of this review, for not only is he a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of this favored section, but has the distinction of being one of the native sons of the county, with whose fortunes he has been identified throughout his entire life. Born on the farm on which he now resides, he first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 14th of February, 1843. His father, Andrew W. Anderson, was a native of York county, Pennsylvania, where he was also reared, and subsequently he made his home in Columbiana county five years, on the expiration of which

period, in 1840, he came to Hancock county. On his arrival here he took up his abode on eighty acres of timber land in Orange township, which in time he cleared and improved, and on this old homestead his death occurred at the age of fifty-nine years. His wife, Mary Anderson, was also born and reared in York county, Pennsylvania, and she lived to the good old age of ninety-one years, dying on the anniversary of her birth. Two children came to bless the home of this worthy couple, the sister of our subject being Mary Jane, the wife of Scott Bentley, of Allen county, Ohio.

John D. Anderson, the elder of the two children, received his education in the public schools of Orange township, where he also attended a select school for a time. In 1862, when nineteen years of age, he entered the school room as an instructor, and for four terms was a successful teacher, finally abandoning that occupation to take up the duties of farm work on the old parental homestead. He is the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of rich and fertile land, all of which is in Orange township, and sixty-two acres which lie in Allen county, this state. On his farm he has nine productive oil wells, making it one of the valuable places of the locality. Although his business interests have been extensive Mr. Anderson has found time to devote to the public welfare, and on the Republican ticket he was elected to the office of county commissioner in the fall of 1895, entering upon the duties of that office on the 1st of January, 1896. He was subsequently re-elected to that position and also filled a vacancy of eight and a half months, his incumbency therein covering a period of six years and eight and one-half months. He has held many of the township offices, and has ever proved himself an upright and reliable official.

In 1869 Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Montgomery, but this union was subsequently sundered by the hand of death, the wife being summoned into eternal rest after becoming the mother of two children,—John A. and Eliza, the latter being the wife of A. C. Spangler. Mr. Anderson's second marriage was to Emma Ruggly, who has borne him four children,—Jessie E., Mabel M., Hellen E. and Harry E.

WILLIAM MADSUSE.

Frederic and Sophia Madsuse were natives of Germany and spent the early part of their lives in that country. In 1850 they decided to leave their native land and came to America, where they took up their residence in Fostoria, Ohio, and lived there for some years engaged in various vocations. In 1863 they bought their first farm, consisting of eighty acres in Pleasant

township, Hancock county; this land was already partly cleared and they resided there some years; they then sold their first eighty and purchased another in the same township. Like so many natives of the fatherland, Fredric Madsuse became one of this country's most loyal citizens; he was a good farmer, a kind husband; his political beliefs were those of the Democratic party, in religion he was a Lutheran. He died on May 6, 1888, and his wife on August 6, 1886. Their family consisted of five children, of whom two are living, Sophia and William.

William Madsuse, who is the subject of this brief sketch, was born in North Germany on the 23d of October, 1847, and was thus only three years of age when his parents crossed the Atlantic. He prepared himself for his life of future usefulness in attending the district schools of Hancock county; when very young he decided that his future calling should be that of a farmer, and he has since amply justified that decision. His first purchase of real estate was made in the year of his father's death, and it consisted of the eighty acres on which he now resides; to this in 1895 he added another eighty, thus making a fine tract of farming land, which he tills with much success and which rewards him well for his labor.

In 1871 Mr. Madsuse was married to Mary Inebnet, who was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, in 1852. Her parents were natives of Switzerland and came to this country about 1849. They bought one hundred and fourteen acres of land in Blanchard township, where they made their home up to the time of their deaths, his occurring in 1866, hers in 1891; their family consisted of eight children, of whom six are living. Mr. and Mrs. Madsuse became the parents of seven children: Frederick, born in 1874; Anna, in 1875; Emma, in 1877; Charles, in 1880; Harley, in 1882; Laura, in 1886; and Ray, in 1893. The family are members of the Lutheran church and are highly respected in their neighborhood.

JACOB KIBLER.

Jacob Kibler, one of the representative and prominent farmers of Eagle township, Hancock county, is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred eight miles east of Wooster in Wayne county, on the 17th of January, 1834. In 1837 he was brought to Hancock county by his parents, George and Emeline (Hays) Kibler, who were married in Wayne county. The father was a native of Virginia and the mother of Arkansas, she being born in that state while her father was stationed there as an American officer in the war of 1812. Our subject's paternal grandfather served all through the Revolu-

tionary war. Both he and his wife were born in the Old Dominion of German ancestry and the latter lived to be over one hundred years of age.

On coming to Hancock county in 1837 George Kibler had to cut his own road for a distance of ten miles from Findlay, and owing to high water and other obstacles he was three days in making the journey. He settled near Arlington, in Madison township, where he entered land and at once turned his attention to its improvement and cultivation. His brother John, who had accompanied him on his removal to this county, also entered a tract of government land, where he lived until his death, dying of cholera during the epidemic of that dread disease. The father of our subject died at the age of forty-five years when Jacob was only fourteen years of age. His other children were Luther, who died in Hancock county at the age of thirty. Mary Ann became the wife of Adam Wagner and died at the age of fifty years, the result of an accident. Isabel married Nels Westcott and died at the age of thirty-five. Washington, who now lives in Colfax county, Nebraska, served through the Civil war and was captured at Harper's Ferry after being wounded. After his exchange he rejoined his command and remained at the front until hostilities ceased. After the death of her first husband the mother of these children married Thomas Wheeler, who took charge of the home farm but spent his last days in retirement from labor in Arlington, where both he and his wife died, both being about seventy-three years of age at the time of their deaths. By this union there were also five children: Holmes, now a resident of Arlington; Emeline, the widow of John Tombaugh and a resident of Findlay; Millie, wife of Noah Hindle, of Arlington; Joseph, a farmer of Madison township; and Milton, who died in childhood.

After the death of his father Jacob Kibler worked for three years by the month as a farm hand, giving his mother his wages to aid in the support of the family. At that time he only received from five to seven dollars per month for chopping wood and farm work. From the age of seventeen until twenty he managed to save all of his earnings by living very economically, it being his intention to purchase forty acres of land. His first purchase, however, consisted of an eighty acre tract and he earned the money to make his first payment of thirty dollars by clearing ten acres of land. This tract cost him three hundred dollars and was a heavily timbered place situated east of Arlington, in Madison township.

Mr. Kibler was married February 23, 1854, to Miss Rebecca McClelland, who was then eighteen years of age and whom he had known from childhood. Her parents were David and Rebecca (Mercer) McClelland, of Eagle township, and came to Hancock county in the fall of 1836 and settled

on land in that township, where they continued to make their home until late in life, but their last days were spent in Findlay. There the father died when over eighty years of age, and the mother at the age of seventy-nine. By trade Mr. McClelland was a shoemaker and while engaged in farming he followed that occupation through the winter months. On coming to this county he was accompanied by his father, Robert McClelland, and his brothers, John, Thomas, James, Alexander and George, all of whom took up land.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kibler were born seven children who reached years of maturity: Emza Jane is now the wife of Theodore Powell, a farmer of Eagle township; Charlotte is the wife of Frank Steinman, also of Eagle township; Flora is the widow of Philip Wilch and is now teaching school in Arlington; Etta is the wife of Robert Baughman, of Van Buren township. Thomas, who now carries on the home farm for his father, married Jennie Creighton, who died leaving one son, Waldo, and for his second wife he married Amanda Hays, by whom he has three children: Florence, Mabel and Gertrude. He is a well known breeder of Hereford cattle, having one of the best herds in the county, and his stock always commands the highest market price. Raleigh, an attorney at law, was educated at Ada, Ohio, and is now engaged in practice at Findlay. Benton is also a graduate of the college at Ada and is now a druggist of Alliance, Ohio. All the children have at some time engaged in teaching school and all have been given better educational advantages than the home schools afforded. The youngest passed the county teachers' examination at the age of fifteen years with only home advantages. His own education being limited, Mr. Kibler has provided his children with the best opportunities along that line so as to fit them for any position in life which they might be called upon to fill. He has assisted each as they have needed it and all are now doing well, being a credit to their parents. He now has sixteen grandchildren and three great-grandshildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Kibler began their married life amid primitive surroundings, he having built a cabin on rented land and furnished it with the simplest of furniture. Later he sold his eighty acre tract and about four years after his marriage bought the old homestead of his mother. Within a few years this was all paid for and he built thereon a good house and made many other useful improvements. After residing upon that place for four or five years he bought his present farm of eighty acres in Eagle township in 1864, only forty acres of which had been cleared at that time, while a cabin constituted the only improvement, there being no ditches or tiling upon the place. This property cost him twenty-six hundred dollars and in buying it he went fifteen hundred dollars in debt, but this was all paid off at the end of five years.

He cleared and tiled the land, at the same time placing it under excellent cultivation, and in 1874 he replaced his cabin home by his present substantial brick residence, so that he now has one of the best improved and most desirable farms in the locality. He bought more land but has since sold a tract of forty acres, and now has one hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land. Starting out in life with scarcely any advantages and no capital, he deserves great credit for the success he has achieved in life, his prosperity being due entirely to his own industry, perseverance and good management.

Politically Mr. Kibler is a stanch Democrat and has served as a delegate to the county conventions of his party. He and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church in Eagle township, in which he has served for years in an official capacity, and he has given liberally to its support. Public-spirited and progressive, he never withholds his aid from any enterprise calculated to advance the moral, social or educational interests of his community, and well does he deserve mention in the history of his adopted county.

RICHARD M. WATSON.

This gentleman is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Hancock county, Ohio. Richard Watson, who is now deceased, was the original pioneer. He was a native of Maryland, but prior to 1831 he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, in which county he remained up to that period when he settled in Liberty township, Hancock county. Here he purchased one hundred acres of land, and lived out a long life of usefulness, proving himself a practical farmer, and a good and loyal citizen. During the war of 1812 he entered the army and fought for his country with zeal and enthusiasm which only such a cause could call forth. His wife was Lucinda Waters, and to them were born nine children, the only surviving child being the subject of this sketch, R. M. Watson. Richard Watson was what is frequently denominated a self-made man, having begun life at the very bottom round of the ladder. He succeeded before his death in accumulating quite a competence, all of which was secured by honest and sincere toil. He died in 1852, his wife surviving him until 1870.

Richard M. Watson was born in Liberty township in 1837. He picked up what education was possible in the country school at that early day, and passed his entire early life on the home farm. At the time of the breaking out of the Civil war he showed his loyalty to his country, taking part in the fearful struggle of the nation for the maintenance of its flag. He became

Mary D Watson

R. M. Watson

a member of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the battles of Mossy Creek, Strawberry Plains, and various engagements of the noted and bloody Georgia campaign, which in reality ended the war in that section of the south. For meritorious service he was promoted to the sergeancy of his company and in July, 1865, received an honorable discharge, having made a record as a gallant defender of his country. On his return to civil life, he bought fifty-five acres of land in Liberty township, to which he has since added at various times three hundred and forty-five more. On this farm he has both oil and gas wells. Mr. Watson has held the office of director of the Hancock County Infirmary for three terms. He is a man of exceedingly clean character, and has led an upright life among his associates in the county, being known particularly for his square dealing among his host of friends. In December, 1867, he was married to Miss Mary, daughter of Andrew and Emily Harner, by whom he had four children: John W.; Lucy, deceased; Grace; and Carl, who is now a practicing physician in Cleveland, Ohio. The other son, John, is an oil operator in this county. Mrs. Mary Watson was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1845. Her father was a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and died in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1849. Her mother was born in Wayne county, Ohio, and died in Stark county, in 1855. In politics Mr. Watson is a Democrat and his fraternal connections are with Stoker Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Findlay.

WILLIAM F. GLAUNER.

The gentleman whose honored name heads this sketch is one of the well-to-do farmers of Marion township, Hancock county, and resides on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which there is abundance of oil and gas, and from which source his own light and heat is supplied. The place of his nativity was Fairfield county, Ohio, and the date December 6, 1844. With his parents he removed to this county at the tender age of four years, and has since that time continued to be a resident here. His father, Michael Glauner, purchased in Marion township one hundred and ten acres of land, though at the time a man of very limited means, but by close application to business and practicing uprightness of life and a reasonable degree of economy, he became a wealthy, useful and influential man in his township. During his lifetime he was honored by being selected to hold many offices of trust. He served a number of years as trustee and justice of the peace, the latter office especially being administered with great care and justice. In his religious life

life he was a member of the Lutheran church from his boyhood. His wife, Sarah (Martens) Glauner, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died in Hancock county, in 1900, at about seventy-five years of age. Their family consisted of eight children, seven of whom are now living. The father died in 1887.

William F. Glauner was the eldest of the family, and received his early training in the public schools in Marion township. He has always followed agricultural pursuits and through persistent effort is able at this time to command a very nice competence. He has been living on his present farm since 1875. He is a worthy and active member of the Lutheran church, has served his township as trustee and is now acting in the capacity of justice of the peace, an office which he is administering with much satisfaction to his constituents. He has the entire confidence of his fellow citizens, and is in every way worthy of the trust which they repose in him. In politics Mr. Glauner is a Democrat.

On February 9, 1871, Mr. Glauner married Miss Martha, daughter of James B. Thomas, whose family history will be found elsewhere in this volume. To this union were born six children: An infant that died unnamed: Franklin B., deceased; Lloyd P., Edna A., Frederick E., and Harry T. The Thomas family removed to this county in 1838 and Mrs. Glauner was born here December 11, 1843. Her father located in what was formerly Findlay township on a farm of one hundred and three acres, which he received from the government. This property he improved and resided on up to the time of his death in 1877. His wife died in 1863. The Thomas family have always stood high in the social circles of the community.

CLARK W. DUKES.

No name has been longer or better known in Hancock county than that of Dukes, which has been associated with what is now Blanchard township from a time anterior to its organization into a body politic. The family originated in Virginia, and as early as 1828 two brothers of the name, John and Richard, came to Hancock county and took up land. Richard married Mary Blue, a native of Ohio of German descent, and settled on a farm of ninety-six acres of wild woodland in the present limits of Blanchard township. Richard Dukes became a successful farmer and a man of influence among the pioneer settlers. The first meeting house in the county was erected on his farm, being built of hewed logs with a clap-board roof. It was the headquarters for the pioneer preachers of the Methodist Episcopal

church, of which Richard Dukes was an earnest member, and most of the celebrated evangelists of that day were heard from its rude pulpit. Richard Dukes, who died in 1879, had a family of fourteen children, of whom nine grew to maturity and figured influentially in the various callings of life. Lewis Dukes, eldest of these children, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, November 30, 1827, and was brought by his parents to Hancock county when he was about one year old. Eventually he achieved notable success in agriculture, owning nearly two thousand acres of land and residing on a farm which was regarded as one of the finest in the state. April 9, 1848, he married Laura A. Spangler, by whom he has the following living children: Parlee C., a prominent farmer residing in Blanchard township; Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Jackson, also a well known farmer of the county; Frances, wife of F. E. Alward, a farmer; Miles W., of Finlday; Clark W. and Robert B.

Clark W. Dukes, next to the youngest of his father's living children, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, May 14, 1862, and was educated in the schools of Blanchard township. In 1885 his father gave him a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Blanchard township, to the cultivation and operation of which he has since then devoted all his time. He is a general farmer and stock raiser and exhibits the natural talent for the business which distinguished his father and others of the name, who have done so much for Hancock county agriculture.

In 1885 he was united in marriage with Miss Lucy, daughter of C. G. and Elizabeth Moore, a native of Mercer county, where she was born in 1868. The children resulting from this union, six in number, are as follows: Carl A., Merrill L., Merritt L., Ura D. and two deceased. Owing to their long connection with the development of the county, their success as agriculturists and their general merits as citizens, the Dukes, both of the older and younger generation, enjoy a standing second to no other family and they occupy positions of influence in their respective communities.

MORRISON HOSLER.

That Hancock county can support so many retired farmers who are amply provided for old age, and who can spend their later lives in ease, speaks well for the kinds of farms to be found in it, and still better for the class of men who have brought this condition about.

Mr. Hosler learned farming in the most practical way, having been reared on a farm. His education was gotten in the country schools, and

though he now lives in Findlay, keeps up his interests in the country, and attends to his business affairs which are necessarily large. His success as a stock-raiser in connection with farming is unquestioned and he is looked on as an authority in all matters pertaining to agriculture.

Our subject was born in Fostoria, Ohio, in 1847, though at the early age of two he came with his parents to Hancock county, where they settled on a farm in Washington township. Mr. Hosler was married on February 27, 1868, in Washington township to Sarah E. Linhart, daughter of Philip Linhart, and by this union there were two children: Cora May died in 1892, at the age of twenty-eight; she was the wife of William Henderson, and left two children: John Morrison and Frances Ruth. The other daughter is Eliza A., wife of Charles Henderson, and their two children are Goldie M. and Howard Wilson.

Mr. Hosler gives his support to the Democratic party, and fraternizes with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Findlay.

BENJAMIN J. WISE.

The above named is a worthy member of the agricultural class in Hancock county, residing in Marion township, on a farm of fifty acres. He is exceedingly well known throughout all this section of the country, from the fact that he was not only prominently identified with the agricultural element of this section, but for years previous had been connected with the ministry. He was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, February 19, 1835, the son of Benjamin and Lydia Wise, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. He in early life received all the advantages of the common and select schools of his section, and so thoroughly fitted himself for the teacher's profssion that he followed that vocation most successfully for a number of years. He was thirty-five years a minister of the Gospel in the United Brethren church, twelve of this number having been passed in the work exclusively, the balance of the period in the local ranks, though he has officiated frequently in the pulpit. Later in life Mr. Wise came under the influence of the teachers of the faith popularly known as the Christian Catholic church, Chicago, Illinois, to which organization he now devotes his religious activities.

In July, 1870, he was joined in marriage to Miss Anna, daughter of Nicodemus B. and Margaret (Buckingham) Ingham, the former an agriculturist, who was born in Ohio and died at the age of sixty-four years. He was the son of Necodemus Ingham, the oldest heir of a wealthy estate in England, where he was born. Seven children were the result of this union,

namely: Alvin S., who married Ida V. Swank, and now resides in Carey, Wyandot county, Ohio; Elam, who married Emma L. Folk, and is living in Marion township; Homer; Orpha, who married Charles A. Byal, and resides in Eagle township, this county; Virgil, who married Grace Miller and resides in Carey, Ohio; Blanche and Clarence. The mother of this family was born in Putnam county, Ohio, on the 6th of September, 1847. This estimable lady had a fair training for school teaching, and in the ranks of the noble calling she served with much satisfaction to her patrons, and with great honor to herself, for a considerable period of years. The parents of Benjamin J. Wise removed from the Keystone state in 1842, and located in Marion township on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Wise was a practical and most successful farmer, and during his lifetime was a man of great influence in the community. He, in his earlier days, carried on a mercantile business, and finally abandoned it for the more free and less lucrative business of farming. He held some of the important offices in the township during his lifetime, having been assessor for a period of years. His family consisted of eleven children, eight of whom are now living: Fannie; Lovina; Benjamin J.; Isabelle, deceased; Israel, deceased; Mary; Sarah; Jane, deceased; Lydia; Franklin and Dixon. After a long life of usefulness in the community, the parents of this family died, the wife in March, 1885, and the father in 1890. Our subject's paternal grandfather was a fine cabinet-maker and farmer. He was a very exact man, always looking after the details of life, a Presbyterian and very devout. Our subject's grandfather on his mother's side, whose name was Corad Opp, was a successful farmer and a man of considerable influence in his day, being a zealous Presbyterian.

NELSON POE.

Nelson Poe, a retired farmer residing in Findlay, Ohio, is a representative of one of the oldest families of which Ohio can boast; for from the time when the country had only a few scattered settlements, and most of these without government authority, when the vast stretches of fertile prairie and woodland lay untouched except by the futile and improvident scratchings of the Indian in his shiftless effort to produce his winter's grain, from that early period has the Peo family been represented among the hardy Ohio pioneers.

Grandfather John Poe was a native of old Virginia and came, along with the thousands making for the great west, to Ohio about the year 1798, and there he lived to the advanced age of ninety-six years. He had taken part in

the Revolutionary war, serving in the cavalry forces and had his horse shot which fell upon him and he was taken prisoner by the British. The horse, in falling, caught him on one of the legs and bound him. After being shot, the animal ran one hundred yards before falling. His son, Jacob Poe, was also born in Virginia, in 1782, and when about sixteen years of age came with his father to Ross county, Ohio, and in 1822 removed to Hancock county, where his long life as a tiller of the soil came to an end in 1856.

Eighty years ago, on September 4, 1822, on Paint creek, Ross county, near Chillicothe, Ohio, was born Nelson Poe; and in December of the same year he came with his parents to Hancock county, where the latter located on the farm in Liberty township, which now belongs to our subject. Here he lived until 1857, when he rented a farm in Findlay township, three miles north of Findlay, where he lived until 1860; he then purchased and moved to a farm in Liberty township; in 1864 the old home place passed into his hands and he made that his home until November 15, 1888, when he retired and has since resided in Findlay.

Mr. Poe was married in August, 1846, in Hancock county, to Mary, the step-daughter of John Lytle, and three children have been born to them. Philip Melancthon Poe was born March 5, 1847, and died February 13, 1865; on October 16, 1864, he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and died at Savannah of disease contracted in the service. Martin Luther Poe was born July 29, 1850, and died July 23, 1889. The third child, Annetta, is the wife of P. W. Ewing, of Findlay. Mr. Poe is a member of the Methodist church, and his political tendencies are toward the Prohibition party.

WILLIAM W. ERNEST.

Of the farmers of Washington township whose association with the public life of the community is such as to deserve recognition in this volume we find the above named gentleman. He resides on and operates a farm of one hundred and seventy acres. He is a native of the Keystone state, having been born in Perry county, September 27, 1846. His father's name was Frederick Ernest and his mother was Mary A. Hall, both of them having been natives of the same state and county. Frederick Ernest was a stone and brick mason, at which trade he labored for a number of years before abandoning it for agricultural pursuits. He with his family removed to Hancock county in 1849, where he located on forty acres of land, subsequently

adding thirty. The most of this land was in its primitive wild state, and the first years were years of toil devoted to clearing, in which the subject of this sketch did his part. The father was a good, industrious man, who made many friends by his upright dealings. It is noted that he had been a soldier of the war of 1812. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and by that congregation was very greatly esteemed. The family consisted of thirteen children, six of whom are now living: Samuel J., George K., William W., Mary E., F. J., and Isaac M. Frederick Ernest died in the year 1874, and his wife, Mary A., died in April, 1902.

William W. Ernest has passed a lifetime in agricultural pursuits. He received the rather limited education of the pioneer days in Hancock county, but it was enough, together with that which he has added by observation and experience, to equip him for the duties of life. He purchased his first farm in 1880, and later added one hundred acres, all of which he devotes to general farming. He was united in marriage to Miss Emma, daughter of Jonathan and Margaret Adams, in 1874. To this happy union were born two children: Rella M. and W. J. Mrs. Emma Ernest was born near Fostoria, Hancock county, December 10, 1846. Mr. Ernest and his wife are consistent members of the United Brethren church, in which organization he is a trustee. He is an industrious and honored citizen, and is prominently identified with the active life of the community in which he resides, and in which he and Mrs. Ernest are highly esteemed citizens. In 1902 Mr. Ernest added to his one hundred and seventy acres twelve acres more, making in all a farm of one hundred and eighty-two acres, which is devoted to general farming and stock-raising.

DON C. HUGHES, M. D.

We have here one of the younger members of the medical fraternity of Hancock county, Ohio, a gentleman who is a product of the city of Findlay, having been born there February 17, 1870, and where he was reared and received his primary education. He graduated from the High school in Findlay in 1888, and immediately entered upon the study of civil engineering, which he intended to adopt as a life profession. After eighteen months of the study he was forced to abandon that idea owing to an accident which incapacitated him from pursuing such an active life. He thereupon entered the office of Dr. F. W. Firmin in Findlay, and began the study of medicine. The school which he selected to complete his education was the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Maryland, where, after due time, he

graduated in 1893. He then repaired to the city of Chicago, where he hung out his shingle and practiced for some eighteen months, when he located in his own city. This was in September, 1895, and he has continued to practice here since that date. Dr. Hughes is keenly alive to the interests of his profession, keeping in touch with the medical thought of his section of the state. He is a member of the American Medical Association, of the Ohio State Medical Society, of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society, and for the past five years has been secretary of the Hancock County Medical Society. He is a young man of great promise in his chosen profession, and has already succeeded in building up a very creditable practice. The Doctor is a prominent and active Republican, the policies of which party he delights in furthering at every opportunity. Fraternally he affiliates with the popular insurance organization known as the Modern Woodmen of America. Dr. Hughes was united in marriage December 31, 1898, to Mamie, the daughter of John W. Dempsey, of New Albany, Pennsylvania.

The chief points in the family history of Dr. Hughes may be summed up as follows. The first member of the family of which any authentic information can be given was of his great-grandfather, William Hughes, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and at the time of the struggle for independence took a prominent part in the cause of freedom. The next in line was our subject's grandfather, who was also a native of Pennsylvania and lived and died there. The father of Dr. Hughes was Leonidas H. Hughes, born in Pennsylvania in 1845. He married Eva Swapp and to them was born one child, Don C. He removed to Hancock county in 1858, and is now deputy internal revenue collector for the eighth district. At the time when his country needed his services, Mr. Hughes gladly went to the front, serving the entire period of the war as a private soldier in Company E, Fifty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. While meeting a charge of the enemy at Chickamauga, he received a wound in the right knee, which incapacitated him for some time from participating in the service.

Dr. Don C. Hughes is a figure in the medical and social life of his community. He merits and receives the good wishes of a very large circle of friends.

GABRIEL M. DREISBACH.

This name suggests Germany and inquiry proves that the surmise is correct, as the family originated in that country, though the descendants have long been residents of the United States. The original emigrants and founders of the family in America were Martin and Eva Hoffman Dreisbach,

who came across the ocean in 1746 and found a location in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Their son Martin, who was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in 1764, and died in 1831, married Selina F. Bucks, a native of Sussex county, New Jersey, who died in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1849. John Dreisbach, son of the last mentioned couple, was born in Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1789, entered the ministry of the Evangelical church at an early age and was one of the first ministers of that denomination in the United States. In 1811 he married Catherine Eyer, who died in 1815, leaving two children, Salome and Elizabeth. In 1817 he married Fannie Eyer, sister of his first wife, and the children by this union were: Abraham E., Isaac E., Catherine, Sophia, Jacob B., Leah E., Martin E., Susannah E., John E., Fannie and Martha E. The father died August 20, 1877. Abraham E. Dreisbach, eldest son of the above mentioned children, was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, February 21, 1818, and in 1840 was married to Mary A. Miesse of Fairfield county, Ohio. He was ordained to the ministry of the Evangelical church and devoted to the service of this denomination the best part of his active life. The children of the marriage above recorded, ten in number, thus appear in the family register: Caroline M., John M., Susan M., David M., Gabriel M., C. M., Abraham M., Mary A., Benjamin M. and Daniel (twins). The last named is dead and of the other brothers, John M. and Abraham M. are ministers of the gospel. The mother of these children died February 9, 1857, and her husband's second wife was Elizabeth Strome, by whom there was no issue. Rev. Abraham E. Dreisbach, who did much good for the cause of religion and morality and remained in harness as long as strength lasted, ended his earthly career August 28, 1876.

Gabriel M. Dreisbach, fifth of his children in order of birth, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, March 30, 1848. He was taken in early life to Seneca county, where he was reared, educated and remained until he reached his majority. In the spring of 1869 he came to Hancock county and some time later made his first purchase of land, consisting of fifty acres in Union township. This tract was increased by various purchases from time to time, but finally Mr. Dreisbach disposed of his entire holdings in Union and in 1892 bought the farm of ninety-five acres in Blanchard township, which constitutes his present homestead. Oct. 26, 1869, he married Miss Mary A. Whisler, a native of Putnam county, Ohio, where she was born July 2, 1853. The five children resulting from this union are: H. D., born in 1871; Blanch L., born in 1873; Irvin W., born in 1875; Floretta, in 1878; and Edith A., in 1882. The family belongs to the Evangelical church, which for many generations has been the hereditary faith of their long line

of ancestors, a number of whom, as previously shown, were ministers of this denomination. Mr. Dreisbach was recently elected treasurer of this township and at present is serving his second year in that office. In politics he is a Republican.

H. D. Dreisbach, the oldest child, married Verna Whitmore of Fremont, Ohio. Blanch I. is now Mrs. Rev. Green, and has three children, viz: Ethel, Oral and Mary C. Irvin W. married Ethel McLish and has one child, Francis Fern. Edith A. married Rev. O. J. Baker, of Delmore, Ohio.

JOHN VAN SICKLE.

In these times and in this country, where birth and social position have an inconsiderable influence on one's success in life, the man whom history most honors is he who has started in life with little capital and has made his way to the top in spite of obstacles. John Van Sickle of Pleasant township is a good example of this character of a man. The parents of this man were John and Elizabeth (Felters) Van Sickle. The former was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1812, and his ancestry is traceable to good Holland stock; the latter was a native of Stark county, Ohio. They located in Blanchard township of this county in 1837, at first buying forty acres of land and later eighty acres more. In 1855 they sold this and removed to Pleasant township in 1856, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, but little of this was improved and he spent a good many years in bringing it under cultivation. Afterwards he sold this farm and bought one of eighty acres near McComb, upon which he lived until his death in 1885, in the month of March. He was married three times, his first wife being Angeline Housworth, who bore no children. His second wife was Elizabeth Felters, who was the mother of Thomas, deceased; David; Isaac; John, our subject; George, who died in the army; Elizabeth; Nancy; Samantha and Servatus. By his third wife, Jane Brooks, he had Steven, William and Martha. His second wife, the mother of our subject, died on December 8, 1861. He was a strong, rugged man, of large build, above the average in intelligence, an inveterate hunter, and always provided well for his large family. He was the first man in his county to own and operate a threshing machine. He was a strong adherent of the principles of the Republican party and a worthy citizen of his county.

John Van Sickle, Jr., was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1841, attended the district schools and completed his education in Findlay. After his school days were over he taught for several terms, but

finding a life of confinement too great a strain he turned his attention to agriculture. He and his three brothers served in the Civil war; David was in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry; George enlisted in the same regiment after its reorganization; Isaac was in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Ohio; and John served in Company L, First Heavy Artillery, Ohio Volunteers from August 8, 1864, to the end of the war. On his return from the army John bought his present farm. On March 16, 1868, he was united in marriage to Laura D. Davis, daughter of Alfred Davis, and born January 5, 1843; two children were born: Irvin L., in 1871, and Ivy Dell, in 1879, who became the wife of B. B. Brumby.

Mr. Van Sickle is a self-made man who began life with his hands and an earnest purpose as his capital, and by thrift and industry has accumulated considerable property. In 1879 he built a commodious and comfortable brick house; besides his general farming he devotes some time to fruit growing. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post No. 155; he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist church; and in all affairs concerning business or society in general he makes the influence of his upright character felt.

A. J. OVERHOLT.

This native of the Keystone state, who is by descent a German, lives in Washington township, where he resides on a farm of seventy-two acres devoted to general farming. His birth occurred in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on January 24, 1848. His paternal sire was Abraham Overholt, his mother's maiden name having been Barbara Sherick. The father was born in February, 1811, and the mother in the year 1813. Mr. Overholt was ten years of age when his parents, in 1858, removed from Pennsylvania to Hancock county, Ohio. Here his father bought three hundred and twenty-five acres of virgin forest land, which was cleared during the lifetime of Abraham Overholt. This gentleman was a good and thrifty farmer, and was one of the heaviest payers of tax on real estate in his day in the county. Politically he affiliated with the Republican party, and religiously he was what was known as a Mennonite, but, not having a church organization nearby, he later joined the United Brethren church. His death occurred January 23, 1896, the wife having preceded him, dying December 5, 1891. The children, besides the subject of this sketch, were Anna, Christian M., Elizabeth, Jacob, deceased, Joseph, Abraham, Sara, Maria, Barbara and Martin B.

A. J. Overholt was reared in Washington township, and early became familiar with the labors of the field and meadow, and assisted in the work of the home farm. His elementary education was acquired in the district school, which was later supplemented by further literary work in the schools of the city of Fostoria. His instincts and training fitted him peculiarly for the life of an agriculturist, and he chose that pursuit, in which he has been eminently successful. The first farm he owned was purchased in January, 1880, and lies partly in Wood county. He lives, however, in Hancock county, where he caused to be built the handsome brick structure in which he now resides, the other improvements being in consonance. The marriage of Mr. Overholt occurred January 14, 1869, the lady being Elmira, the daughter of Isaac and Susan Marietta. Two children have been born to this union: Earl L., May 2, 1870, and Mabel M. The son, after pursuing a four years' classical course at Fostoria Academy, became a student of the Cincinnati Medical Academy, and after graduating at this institution enrolled at the Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, where he spent two years and obtained his degree. He is now a successful physician in his home town of Fostoria, where he enjoys a large and lucrative practice. The daughter Mabel is also a graduate of Fostoria high school, in which institution she is now a successful and popular instructor. Mr. Overholt has always taken an exceedingly active part in the public life of his county. He gives his every effort to the advancement of the interests of the Republican party, by whose suffrages he is at the present time serving as county commissioner, to which office he was elected in 1902. He has also served in the more minor but not less responsible office of trustee of his township. He and his family are consistent members of the United Brethren church, in which organization he has been for years a trustee. They are honored for their many good qualities of heart and mind, and well deserve representation in a history devoted to the representative families of Hancock county.

FREDERICK A. HOLLIGER.

Many Swiss compatriots have found a home in America, where they have succeeded in building up fortunes and in winning the respect of their fellow citizens. The subject of this sketch, however, was but five years old when he came to America, but he looks on it as his mother country and has served it faithfully in war as well as in peace.

Mr. Holliger's father, Nicholas Holliger, was born in Switzerland in 1821, and came to America in 1850, locating in Uhrichsville, Ohio. It was there that Mr. Holliger lived and was educated, his parents afterwards moving

to a farm. He enlisted in September, 1863, in Company I, One Hundred and Twelfth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, as a private, and served until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, in November, 1865. He was in the following battles: Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, Cynthiana, Kentucky, the first fight at Saltville, Virginia, where he was badly wounded in the right thigh and captured. He was also in many minor engagements. He was sent to the Emory Henry hospital, fifteen miles from Saltville, Virginia, and there held three weeks. He was then sent to Richmond, Virginia, and paroled and exchanged at City Point. From there he was taken to the hospital at Annapolis, Maryland, where he remained until December, 1864, and was given a furlough of thirty days home. At the expiration of his furlough he reported at Camp Chase, Ohio, and rejoined his regiment at Richmond, Kentucky, his wound still being a running sore. In spite of this he went with General Stoneman in co-operation with Sherman on his march to the sea, and was in the fight at Salisbury, North Carolina, where they released about three thousand Federal prisoners and came so near to capturing Jefferson Davis.

After being mustered out of service at Nashville, Mr. Holliger returned to Ohio, going to Columbus, where he received his discharge and returned to his home in Tuscarawas county. He remained there for some time, farming a little, and working in a grist mill and in the coal mines. In 1879 he went to Troy, Ohio, for a year and later to Piqua, Ohio, continuing in the sewing machine business in which he had engaged in Troy. In 1887 he left the sewing machine business to start into the grocery business, which later he merged into a confectionery jobbing business. In 1887 he sold out and came to Findlay, and went into the wholesale confectionery and cigar business, which he now continues, the members of the firm being F. A., H. L., C. C. Holliger and C. F. Eckhardt.

Mr. Holliger was first married in 1869 to Mary A. Lehn, who died in 1880, leaving three children as follows: Harry L.; Charles C. and Mary Maud, wife of C. F. Eckhardt. Mr. Holliger married again in 1882, his second wife being Mary A. McWilliams; there have been no children by this union. A brother of Mr. Holliger also served as a private the Civil war, enlisting in Company B, Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was captured at Somerset, Kentucky, but was not held long, being soon paroled.

The subject of this sketch belongs to the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Stoker Post, No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic.

EPHRAIM TROUT.

For many years this gentleman, now deceased, was one of the leading citizens of Allen township, Hancock county. He was the son of John and Eleanor Trout, who, with their family removed from Perry county to the village of Van Buren, Hancock county, in 1828. The father entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, part of which original purchase is now owned by Allen Dorsey, of Van Buren. This land was soon brought under a good state of cultivation. Mr. John Trout is remembered as having been one of the principal movers in the matter of laying out the town of Van Buren. He was a thorough business man as well as a good practical farmer. His death occurred early in life. His family consisted of Ephraim, George, Philip, John F., Eliza, Ella and Cornelius.

Ephraim Trout was born in Perry county, Ohio, November 24, 1817. He was, therefore, only eleven years old when his parents came to Hancock county, Ohio. Having been reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of the township, he naturally took to agricultural pursuits and followed in the footprints of his father. He passed his life as a resident of Allen township, was prominent in public affairs, ranked among the best farmers, and served in many of the local offices. His farm consisted of a quarter section, upon which he lived until his death, which occurred October 18, 1900. He twice entered the state of matrimony. His first wife was Sarah E. Shafer, whom he married April 25, 1839, and who died in October, 1871, leaving seven children: John, Mary E., Amanda, Hiram (deceased), Caroline (deceased), Philip and Sarah E. April 6, 1873, Mr. Trout married Miss Isabelle J., daughter of Daniel and Mary (Hymer) Warner, whose children were, Eliza M., born February 20, 1874; William D., September 4, 1875; Mollie F., April 9, 1879 (deceased); Edward G., December 7, 1880; and Roscoe L., September 9, 1889. Of these children, Eliza married W. Mickey, whom she bore two daughters, Martha B., and Florence E. William D. married Clara B. McCullough, and they have two children, Roy E. and Clyde E. Mrs. Isabelle Trout was born in Allen township, November 17, 1842, and is the owner of real estate in her own right, upon which are three producing oil wells. Her father, Daniel Warner, was born in Dutchess county, New York state, in 1799, and her mother in Philadelphia in 1801, coming to Ohio in 1815. They were among the very earliest pioneers in the county of Wayne, Daniel being the first white boy in what is now Wooster, Ohio, and his brother Alanson the first white child born in the same place. The Warners removed to this county about 1830, where they located in what is

now Portage township. Mr. Warner is remembered as being a man of great activity, buying and selling different parcels of real estate, which he improved while he held them. He died in 1880, in Portage township, and his wife in August, 1865. Only two of their eight children are living: Daniel Warner and Mrs. Isabelle Trout. The latter is a member of the United Brethren church, and the family is esteemed for having been honorably and prominently associated with the building up of the institutions of Hancock county.

JOHN A. SUTTON.

This is an honored name in the business circles of Hancock county, Ohio, its possessor being at the present time auditor of the county. He is one of the products of this utilitarian age when every man may be the architect of his own fortune. If Mr. Sutton ever reaches the highest office in the gift of the American people, he may attribute it to the fact that he was shrewd enough in his early life to add Lincoln's accomplishment to his repertoire, that of a railsplitter, and later that other almost necessary qualification, an experience as a printer in a country newspaper office. Mr. Sutton has always been exceedingly active in the political circles of his county and state. He is a Republican of the stalwart kind, and has always held himself ready for service in any position that would advance the interests of the grand old party. Born in 1856, on the 28th day of November, on a farm in Morgan county, Ohio, he there passed the period of his early boyhood, and in the year 1864 removed with his parents to Trenton, Missouri. Here he passed two years of his life, and then, his mother having died in the meantime, he returned with his father to the old home in Morgan county. On the farm he remained until 1873, when he came to Deshler, Ohio, where he remained for a year, engaging in the arduous labor of getting out railroad ties, logs and stave blocks. Back again to Morgan county and Noble county he went, where he continued in the laborious labor of farm life up to the year 1878, when in the fall he came to Hancock county, locating on a farm in Blanchard township. He passed but a year on this farm when, in 1879, he came to Findlay, where he entered the office of the "Jeffersonian" as printer's devil, from which position he has worked up through the grades until he is at the present time associate editor of that paper. His labors with this paper have not been continuous, he having passed a period in North Baltimore, Wood county, Ohio, where he founded, in 1884, the North Baltimore "Beacon," a Republican weekly, which he continued to run with great success for a period of two years. During his residence in Wood county he was

elected clerk of Henry township, which was the beginning of his public career. He served until 1886, when he resigned the office, sold out his paper and returned to Findlay to accept the position of associate editor of the "Jeffersonian." This position he still holds. In this city he has been quite active in the public life of the community from 1893 to 1897, being a member of the library board, which he resigned to become a member of the city election board. In this position he served one year. Prior to leaving Findlay to engage in the newspaper business he had served a period as supervisor of elections of Hancock county, having been appointed by the secretary of state in 1900. This office he resigned to accept the nomination on the Republican ticket for county auditor of Hancock county, to which office he was elected after a very stirring campaign. For a period of twenty years Mr. Sutton has been continuously connected with the local machinery of the Republican party, serving on the central and executive committees most of that time. His previous experience was an earnest of what might be expected in his conduct of the auditor's office. Fraternally he affiliates with the Masonic fraternity, and favors the form of worship of the Methodist Episcopal church. His domestic life began in Findlay in 1884, when he was married to Mary M. Mungen, who presides over his home with dignified grace. He is the father of two interesting daughters, Mary Lucille and Dorothy Anna.

L. S. WOODS, M. D.

This gentleman, who is the oldest resident physician of Rawson, is a native of the county and the state, also descended from Ohioans born and bred on the side of both father and mother. Such a pedigree would seem to entitle Dr. Woods to be designated as a "genuine Buckeye," a heritage to which it is generally regarded as a high honor to be born. But the Doctor is not one of those who would rest his claims for distinction on the fact that he "was born in Ohio," preferring to show merit of a different kind, and before this biography is concluded the reader will find reason for believing that the subject thereof needs no factitious aid in advertising his standing as a professional man. As stated, both his parents were natives of Ohio, the father, James Woods, hailing from Columbiana and his mother, Hannah Hatcher, claiming origin in Stark county. They were children of pioneer settlers, the first born November 16, 1810, and the latter July 5, 1815, and were consequently familiar with the scenes characteristic of Ohio in its formative period as a state. James Woods and Hannah Hatcher became acquainted early in

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their lives, were married April 11, 1833, and a few years later decided to locate permanently in Hancock county. They arrived September 20, 1837, and first settled in Delaware township, but three years afterward bought forty acres of improved land in Madison township, on which they constructed their home and ever after resided there. John Woods was one of the first trustees of the new township of Madison, which was formed out of a part of Delaware, and he became a man of influence in that locality. His original investment in land was subsequently increased by the purchase of sixty additional acres, and the tract was converted into a comfortable and productive homestead. Mr. Woods is now ninety-two years old, and a fine sample of the sturdy race whose energy and industry placed Ohio in the front rank of the great commonwealths of the central valley. Mrs. Hannah Woods, the beloved mother of an affectionate family, passed away in peace with all the world on the 23d of March, 1894. Of the eight children of this worthy couple the five now living are: Enos H., Samantha A., Dr. Thomas E., Nathan B., route agent on the Northern Pacific Railroad for the last twenty years, and the Doctor, whose life work is now to be unfolded in outline.

L. S. Woods, youngest of his father's children, was born on the old family homestead in Madison township, Hancock county, Ohio, November 3, 1853. After finishing the usual course in the common schools he entered the office of his elder brother, Dr. Thomas E. Woods, at Rawson, for the purpose of studying medicine, and remained three years under that efficient preceptorship. The ground work being thus laid, he next attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, and obtained his medical degree from that famous institution on March 17, 1887. Without much delay he opened an office at Rawson, and has since practiced continuously at that place, being now the oldest resident physician of the village. He belongs to what is called the allopathic or regular school of physicians, and is regarded as one of the most skillful as well as best informed of the county's medical practitioners. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio and the Hancock County Medical Societies, and takes an active interest in their meetings and discussions. January 1, 1884, Dr. Woods was united in marriage with Miss Inez A., daughter of George J. and Caroline Kelly. The father of Mrs. Woods, who is one of the oldest citizens of Rawson and furnished most of the land for the town site when the place was laid out, is noticed at some length in another part of this volume. Dr. and Mrs. Woods have three children: Leo Mozelle, born April 15, 1888; Scott K. and Hannah K., twins, born September 24, 1894. Dr. Woods is quite prominent in Masonic circles, being worshipful master of Lodge No. 418, and a member of the chapter and command-

ery at Findlay. He has also been long connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which fraternity he is past grand. In politics, Dr. Woods is an uncompromising Republican as his father has always been since the formation of that party. His home was a station for the "Underground Railroad" before the war. It is hardly necessary to add that the families of Woods and Kelly, being among the oldest, are also among the most respected in their localities and form part of the best social circles.

SYLVANUS W. TROUT.

The annals of Hancock county, to be complete, must have written into them the deeds of heroism accomplished by her soldier element, and it is with pleasure that notice is taken of one of that honorable class of citizens, who is at the present time a well-to-do farmer of Allen township, where he is engaged extensively in stock raising on a well tilled farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He was not of military age at the time when the war cloud gathered over our nation, but just as soon as he could prevail upon the mustering officer to accept him, he entered the army and gallantly did his part to maintain unbroken the constitution written in the blood of our fathers. In 1863 he became a private in Company I, of the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He participated with this regiment in a number of well contested battles in the middle west, such as Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, the Atlanta campaign, Franklin, Nashville. He was present at fourteen of the principal battles of the war, and in a number of smaller skrimishes. He bravely did his duty during these years of service, and on July 29, 1865, received an honorable discharge.

Sylvanus W. Trout was born on the farm on which he now resides on the 7th of February, 1845. He was the son of George W. and Delilah (Heller) Trout. He received his early training and education in his native township, and has always followed agricultural pursuits. He is a practical farmer and enjoys the full confidence of his fellow citizens. His married life began in 1869, when he led to the altar Miss Clarissa, daughter of Anthony and Lucy Huntington, to whom one son, Milton E., was born in 1870. This boy's mother died in 1872, and after a western trip to California, which lasted nearly two years, Mr. Trout returned home, and in 1876 was married to Rachel S., daughter of Abraham and Susan Kempher. The following children have been born to this marriage, namely: Carrie K.; Charles E.; Merrill W.; Fannie B.; Susan A., deceased; Nellie J.; and Floyd, also deceased. The mother of these children is a native of Portage township,

where she was born in 1849, and where her parents removed from Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, some eleven years previous.

George W. Trout, father of our subject, removed to this county with his father, John Trout, in 1829, when but a lad. John Trout entered a farm now owned by Allen Dorsey in Van Buren, then containing one hundred and sixty acres of timber land in its natural state. In conjunction with his farming, John Trout kept a hotel in Van Buren, known as the Trout House, he exploiting that fact by the rather unique sign of a trout. These two enterprises he carried on up to his death. He was a gallant defender of the Union against British aggression in 1812, a good citizen generally and reared a family of five children. When George W. Trout came of age he entered from the government eighty acres of land, but afterward exchanged his interest in the homestead for eighty acres which his brother James owned, and joined him on the west. This property is now owned by our subject. George W. Trout was a practical farmer, a good neighbor, a loyal citizen, and a loving husband and father. He made the best possible use of his time, valuing it as so much capital. He was a member of the United Brethren church, in political affiliations a Republican and fraternized with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His death, which was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, occurred in October, 1882, the mother of his children surviving him some thirteen years. They reared a family of seven children, six of whom grew to maturity, and five of whom are now living. Sylvanus W. Trout has passed his entire life in Hancock county, and his many acquaintances know him to be a man of sterling worth, reliable in business, and trustworthy in all life's relations.

He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Stoker Post, No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic, and the United Brethren church. Mrs. Trout is a member of the Christian church.

MILTON E. TROUT.

This gentleman is a young and enterprising farmer residing in Allen township, on a farm of seventy-two acres of well tilled land. He was born in July, 1870, and is the son of Sylvanus W. and Lucy (Huntington) Trout. Milton Trout is a worthy representative of a worthy family, and is distinguished himself, as time passes, in agricultural pursuits. His entire life, with the exception of two years, has been passed on the farm he now occupies and owns. He is in the oil belt of Hancock county, and has a producing well on his farm. He married Irma, daughter of Almond E., and Theresa

S. (Woodward) Hadsall, a native of Lima, Ohio, where she was born February 6, 1875. They have four children: Samuel A., born January 6, 1896; Inez L., July 3, 1897; Theresa M., January 31, 1899; and Edna L., March 20, 1901. Mrs. Trout's father was a native of Hancock county and her mother of Erie county, Ohio. By his first marriage Mr. Hadsall had seven children and five by the last.

GEORGE W. SNYDER.

Among the representative citizens of Jackson township none are more deserving of mention in this volume than George W. Snyder, who for many years has been connected with the agricultural interests of Hancock county. Although he has met with reverses in life he has steadily overcome all the obstacles in the path to success, and is now one of the well-to-do and substantial citizens of his community.

A native of Hancock county, Mr. Snyder was born in Findlay township, April 20, 1854, his parents being Samuel and Catherine (Spangler) Snyder, who were natives of Perry and Fairfield counties, respectively, and were married in the latter county. A year later, in 1833, the father came to Hancock county, at which time there were only thirteen buildings in the city of Findlay. He entered a tract of land in Findlay township, two and a half miles northeast of the city, on the Lake Erie & Western Railroad. It was covered with a heavy growth of timber and there were but few settlers in that locality at that time. Mr. Snyder worked at his trade of cabinet making most of the time, devoting his evenings and what other time he could spare to the improvement and cultivation of his land until he had a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Upon that place he continued to make his home until called to his final rest on the 4th of October, 1884, at the age of seventy-two years, and his wife died May 6, 1888, at the age of seventy-three. Politically he was first a Whig and later a Republican, and was always very outspoken and decided in his views on any question. He was very active in religious work, being one of the original members of the English Lutheran church of Findlay and assisted in building the first church of that denomination at that place, in which he served in an official capacity throughout life. He lived peaceably with all men, never being engaged in a lawsuit, and was noted for his generosity, giving liberally to all enterprises calculated to improve the moral, social or material welfare of his community.

In the family of this worthy man were ten children, of whom one died in infancy, those reaching maturity being Solomon, a resident of Big Lick township; Emanuel, of Arcadia; William, a ranchman of Kansas; George W., of this review; Rebecca, wife of Henry Ebersole, of Washington township, this county; Emma, wife of William P. Small, of Findlay, all of whom are still living, while Isabella, the eldest of the family, married J. G. Orth, of Arcadia, and died at the age of sixty-two years; Louisa married Michael Snyder and died in Arcadia some years ago; and Mary wedded Samuel Snyder, of Putnam county, Ohio, and died when a young woman.

George W. Snyder, of this review, is the youngest of the family, and remained at home until twenty-five years of age, having charge of the farm during the last years of his residence there. In 1879 he bought the place and continued its operation until 1888, when he rented it and removed to Findlay, where he engaged in the livery business for four years with satisfactory results. Prior to this time, however, he had lost all of his property by going security for twenty-seven thousand dollars, he and his brothers, Emanuel and Solomon having endorsed the notes of their brother William for that amount. To meet his obligations our subject gave up the old home farm and in fact all that he possessed with exception of a few tools and some stock valued at between two and three hundred dollars. During the following three years he was engaged in farming on rented land, and at the end of that time removed to his present farm, his father-in-law having given Mrs. Snyder eighty acres. She also purchased another eighty-acre tract, so that they now own a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has placed under excellent cultivation. It is known as the Henry Bowers farm and here Mr. Snyder has made his home since 1897, during which time he has kept paying off old obligations to the amount of twenty-five hundred dollars. In some instances the notes had run for eleven years. In 1886, during the boom in Findlay, Mr. Snyder was offered four hundred dollars per acre for his old Snyder farm but did not make up his mind to sell until thirty days later. When ready to accept the offer his brother Solomon advised him to wait, believing the land would bring six hundred dollars per acre, but the offer was never repeated. There had been previously sold some adjoining land for three hundred dollars per acre, which shortly afterward brought eight hundred dollars, and this led him to believe that which he possessed was worth more than four hundred dollars per acre. In 1888, on his removal to Findlay, he leased his farm for twelve hundred dollars cash, receiving his pay in twenty dollar gold pieces. A gas well was sunk upon the place, but it did not prove a valuable one. At that time the streets

of Findlay were crowded with an excited lot of people who expected soon to realize vast fortunes from their gas wells.

On the 10th of December, 1878, Mr. Snyder was united in marriage to Miss Alice S. Wyer, then twenty-three years of age, the daughter of Henry Wyer. She was born in Fairfield county but when a young girl came with her parents to Hancock county and was educated in the high school of Findlay. By her marriage she has become the mother of two sons: William B., born June 30, 1882; and Cloyd C., born August 22, 1884. Both are at home with their parents. The family hold a high place in the esteem of the community in which they live, and as a genial, courteous gentleman Mr. Snyder has made a host of friends throughout the county.

JOHN F. STALL.

The Stall family were of German extraction, the American branch originating from settlers in Pennsylvania. From Franklin county, in that state, during the earlier half of the nineteenth century, George and Mary Stall came to Carroll county, Ohio, where they resided until 1853. In that year they removed to Hancock county and located on eighty acres of land which had been but little improved and contained no better building than a log house. The newcomers remained on this farm until 1892, when it was sold and a residence purchased in Findlay, which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stall until their deaths, which occurred September 24, and January 2, 1895, respectively. George Stall was a man of influence in his township, where he held the offices of treasurer and clerk. While holding the office of township treasurer he was robbed of one thousand two hundred dollars of the public money, which he made good by selling some property which he owned in the town of Arcadia. This robbery occurred in 1868, but Mr. Stall's prompt restitution of the funds by sacrificing his individual means, not only satisfied the people, but raised him higher in their estimation. During the Mexican war he held a commission as colonel given under Governor David Todd, of the state of Ohio, and fought under General Scott with such gallantry as to obtain recognition as a brave and loyal soldier. By his marriage, which occurred December 31, 1835, he became the father of seven children, of whom five are still living and four of these are residents of Hancock county. His son, John F. Stall, who is the subject of this sketch, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, January 12, 1837, and received his education at the schools in Findlay after his parents removed to Hancock county. In 1855 he went to Illinois, where he was employed six

years as bookkeeper for the Rock Island Railroad Company. While on a visit to his old home in Hancock county he met Miss Nancy, the popular daughter of Wilson and Mary Roller, and the result was a mutual attachment on the part of the young people. Their marriage was consummated April 10, 1862, and proved both happy and fruitful, the children resulting therefrom being Wilton, born October 6, 1864; Flora A., born January 19, 1868; Edwin, December 14, 1870; James A., April 21, 1873; George W., December 29, 1875; Thomas J., September 29, 1878; and William H., born June 28, 1884. The mother of these children is a native of Hancock county, having been born in Big Lick township, September 23, 1840, and her family is one of high respectability and influence, while she herself is a lady of many virtues and most excellent judgment. In his earlier years, Mr. Stall joined the forces engaged in teaching "the young idea how to shoot" and was an efficient member of the educational guild for nine years. He has always stood well in his community, is regarded as a man of good business judgment and was called on at different times to take charge of township offices, holding the clerkship for six years and the position of assessor for one term. In 1871 he took possession of his present farm of eighty acres in Big Lick township and has since operated it with such skill and industry as to make it one of the best tilled tracts of its size in that part of the county. Mr. Stall and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, of which he holds the position of trustee, and the performance of all his duties, both as man and citizen, has been done with such conscientiousness as to gain him general esteem. George, the father of our subject, was a twenty-four degree Mason and belonged to Findlay Blue Lodge, No. 227.

WILLIAM GREEN.

William Green, who has passed the seventieth milestone on the journey of life, is an honored and respected resident of Hancock county, Ohio. A native of the Keystone state, he was there born in the year 1829, and is a son of William and Susan (Hummond) Green, both also natives of Pennsylvania. In 1840 they left their home in that commonwealth and came to Hancock county, locating on one hundred and sixty acres of virgin forest land in Union township. During his lifetime the father cleared and improved his land, making it one of the most productive farms of his community. His life's labors were ended in death in 1862, and a short time afterward his widow joined him in the spirit world.

William Green, of this review, was one of eleven children, five of whom

are still living, but he is now the only representative of the family in Hancock county. He was but eleven years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this locality, and throughout his entire business career he has devoted his energies to the tilling of the soil. In 1855 he purchased his present homestead, which at that time was in its primitive condition, but as the years have passed by he has cleared and improved the land, has erected commodious and substantial buildings, and the farm is now one of the valuable ones of Union township. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to positions of honor and trust, and he has efficiently served his township as its trustee, supervisor and as a school director.

Mr. Green was first married in 1855, when Miss Rachel Winniger became his wife. This union resulted in the birth of six children, namely: Calvin W., who is engaged in teaching school; C. L., a successful agriculturist, who died December 10, 1902; W. J., a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church; Morris; Mary and Rachel. The mother of this family was called to her final rest in 1866, and for his second wife Mr. Green chose Catherine Linehart, their marriage having been celebrated in 1868. One son, Austin L., was born of this marriage. This union was also separated by the hand of death, for in 1871 the wife and mother was called to her home beyond, and in the following year, 1872, Mr. Green wedded her sister, Annie M. Linehart. They became the parents of four children,—Loa I., Irvin O., Pearl M. and Parl M. For the third time Mr. Green was called upon to mourn the loss of a beloved companion, for on the 21st of April, 1895, the wife passed into eternal rest. Mr. Green is a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has held office. He is widely and favorably known in the county in which he has so long made his home and his friends are almost as many as his acquaintances.

ANDREW J. PLOTTS.

A highly respected retired farmer of Hancock county, Ohio, is Andrew J. Plotts, who now is a resident of Findlay. His birth occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1821, and he is a son of Gershum and Mary (Plotoner) Plotts, who were both natives of Pennsylvania.

Gershum Plotts was a brickmaker by trade and followed this occupation in Fairfield county, combining it with farming. When he located in Hancock county, he settled on a farm of eighty acres, in Amanda township, but some years later, disposed of this property and bought a farm in Michigan,

A. J. Blatt

upon which he lived until his death, which occurred in 1877. He was an industrious man, and one who was honest and upright in his dealings with others. His political views made him a Democrat. In religious belief, both he and wife were consistent members of the United Brethren church. His first wife, who was the mother of our subject, died prior to his removal from Fairfield county, and he then married Mrs. Mary Donaldson. By his two marriages Mr. Plotts had a family of seven sons, by his first union, and two by his second, and seven of these children still survive.

Andrew J. Plotts was fifteen years of age when his father located in Hancock county. He was the third son and upon him fell much of the hard work of the farm, but it gave him a practical knowledge which he has put to excellent use throughout life. His education was obtained in the short winter terms of school in both Fairfield and Hancock counties. In 1873 he purchased ninety acres of land in Henry county, Ohio, and moved upon that farm about 1879, and resided there for fourteen years. In 1896 he returned to Hancock county, and in 1901 he sold his Henry county farm, retiring to his pleasant home in Findlay.

The first marriage of Mr. Plotts was in 1842, to Miss Elizabeth Dipert, and to this union there were born eleven children, eight of whom still survive, namely: Mary A. Bowman; Lydia Kistler; Ella L. Altman; Christina Altman; Elizabeth Martin; Sarah J. Woulgmuth; Ira and John W. Plotts. The death of the mother of these children took place in 1875. The second marriage of Mr. Plotts was in 1897, to Mrs. Nellie T. Martin. By a life of exemplary living, our subject has preserved both his physical vigor and his mental faculties in a very remarkable way, and enjoys life, very free from the cares which frequently attend advancing years. He is held in very high esteem in Findlay and has a wide circle of friends.

LEWIS H. HOSTLER.

This gentleman is among the leading merchants of the village of Arcadia, Hancock county. He is one of the younger members of the business circle of his town, but his previous career has been such as to augur well for his future. He believes heartily in the principles of "living and letting live." His upright dealing with his customers is rapidly pushing him to the front as one of the leading merchants of the community. Mr. Hostler was born in Washington township. A preliminary training in the country school was supplemented by a thorough course in the Arcadia high school, which training has fitted him well for a life of usefulness in business. He

operates and owns a first class general store, in which may be found the best of everything in its line. His marriage occurred in 1885, to Miss Mary, the daughter of J. J. Boyle, her mother's maiden name having been Mahala McCray. To this union a family of four children have been born: Mertie M., Arthur J., Wilbur R., and Corine. The mother of this family is a lady of many graces of character, and is a true helpmate and advisor to her husband. She was born in West Virginia, March 6, 1869. Mr. Hostler takes an active interest in the social life of his community, being a member of several of its leading organizations, of which might be particularly mentioned the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Passing to the consideration of the family history of Mr. Hostler we note that he is the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Linhart) Hostler. His father was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 6, 1843. His mother was a native of the Keystone state, where she was born in Pittsburg, in 1846. Their marriage was celebrated in 1867, and the result of the union was the birth of Francis A., Lewis H., Nettie B., Frederick, and Bertha. Jeremiah Hostler and his wife removed to Hancock county in an early day, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and during his lifetime continued to engage in agricultural pursuits. He was a practical business man, and an excellent farmer. In connection with the operation of his farm he was engaged extensively in the buying and selling of stock, of which he was an extensive shipper to the eastern markets. He made a host of friends by his conscientious conduct in business, and the geniality of his temperament was such as to keep the friendship which he had gained. He was an attentive listener of the gospel as it was expounded from the Lutheran pulpit. Fraternally he is affiliated with the I. O. O. F. His death occurred in 1887, his widow continuing to reside on the home farm near the town of Arcadia. Jeremiah was a son of Peter and Susana (Sherman) Hostler, the former having been born in York county, Pennsylvania, May 14, 1821, and the latter in Maryland, in 1825. They removed to Stark county, Ohio, in 1842, where they reared a family of twelve children, four of whom are now living, namely: Morris, David, William and Sara. Peter Hostler by trade was a contractor and builder, and a thorough-going business man. He stood well in the esteem of the public, enjoying their entire confidence and respect. He was intimately connected with the development and growth of Hancock county in its early history, having removed here with his family as one of the pioneers. As stated before, he was an excellent business man, and had a mind which was well fitted for the promotion of enterprises and the organization of new schemes. He was instrumental in 1874 in the organization

of the Farmers' Bank of Findlay, of which he was president from that date until 1887. He then retired from the presidency of the Farmers' Bank and in the following May organized, together with a number of other business men of Findlay, the City Bank. Of this he was also president. He was an earnest and active worker in the ranks of the Democratic party, and received recognition at its hands by election as treasurer of the county, an office which he filled to the entire satisfaction of his constituents for a period of four years. His death, which took place in February, 1894, was sincerely lamented by his friends and mourned by his relatives, both of whom are numerous.

It is proper to state of the son, Lewis H. Hostler, that he is a worthy representative of a worthy father, in whose footsteps he is consistently following. He endeavors to give his support to every movement that is calculated to prove of public good, and is widely acknowledged as a worthy citizen. All who know him esteem him highly for his sterling worth, and his circle of friends in the community is extensive.

B. F. WINELAND.

B. F. Wineland, who is ex-county commissioner and a resident of Cass township, is one of the well known and popular men of Hancock county. His birth was in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1839, and he is a son of Joseph and Frances (Greenawalt) Wineland, the former of whom was born in 1801, also in Westmoreland county.

In 1824 Joseph Wineland married Frances Greenawalt, the daughter of a neighboring farmer, and in 1844 they moved to Hancock county, Ohio, and located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Cass township, adding other tracts until he owned three hundred and sixty acres in various parts of the township. Mr. Wineland became one of the leading men of Cass township, serving for many years as a justice of the peace and filling many local offices. His party at one time nominated him for county commissioner. His interest in public matters was that of a single-minded citizen, his hopes always being for the final triumph of those principles which he deemed right. Mr. Wineland was a Democrat in the early days, and later was one of the first movers in what was known as the Know Nothing party, finally becoming one of the organizers of the Republican party in Hancock county. He was a large-hearted, hospitable and generous man, and was ever ready to contribute to the advancement of his locality. Joseph Wineland passed out of life in August, 1861, before he saw the consummation of his hopes for his country. In October of the same year his faithful

wife also passed away, and both of them sleep in honored graves in the beautiful cemetery near Van Buren, Ohio.

Our subject was reared on his father's farm and his education was obtained in the public schools. He cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. The outbreak of the Civil war aroused his loyalty, and ever since he has been an earnest worker in the Republican party. On October 14, 1862, he put aside the duties which had thus far hindered him, and as a private enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which immediately joined others at Falmouth, Kentucky, and from then until the close of the war our subject participated in every battle where his regiment was engaged, with the exception of Resaca, at which time he was serving on detached duty. A long line of notable battles was this, including Mossy Creek, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, the Atlanta campaign, Franklin and Nashville. At one time Mr. Wineland was under fire for one hundred and twenty days. After the battle of Nashville he was transferred to General Sherman's command in North Carolina, and assisted in the capture of Fort Anderson.

In 1864 our subject's gallantry brought him into notice, and he was made orderly-sergeant, and continued to efficiently fill this position until he was mustered out in July, 1865. With his comrades he then returned home, where each one endeavored to pick up their old occupations. Many of these lost opportunities could not be found, but others, like our subject, found warm hearts awaiting their return, and in their added affection and admiration found solace for many of the terrible hardships they had passed through. Mr. Wineland purchased his present farm in Cass township and for some years engaged both in farming and lumbering, but has discontinued the latter branch.

On July 3, 1862, shortly before his enlistment, Mr. Wineland was married to Miss Caroline Nelson, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, on February 17, 1844, and is a daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Pettigrew) Nelson. By this union there were three children: Franklin L., born March 31, 1863; Mary S., now Mrs. William Davis, born August 31, 1867; and Merle B., born December 15, 1884. Franklin L. Wineland is one of the most talented and skilled musicians in western Ohio. His genius was early recognized, and after enjoying great advantages in instruction in America, he completed his studies under some of the best masters of the art at Berlin, Germany.

Mr. Wineland has been a prominent man in his immediate locality, and has been honored by the treasurership of the township for a period of four-

teen consecutive years, and was elected county commissioner, serving most efficiently from September 16, 1895, to September 14, 1901. He is an honored member of the United Veterans' Association.

Mr. Wineland belongs to a patriotic family. Two of his brothers were also soldiers in the Civil war, and they bravely met a soldier's death. The honorable record which our subject can show is not only a matter of just pride to himself, but reflects honor upon his children and upon a country which, in need, can find such valiant sons.

JOHN A. THOMAS.

One of the prominent G. A. R. men and worthy citizens of the city of Findlay is the above named gentleman, who lives in a comfortable residence at 1115 East Sandusky street. He is a native of Findlay township, where he was born May 13, 1846, and is a son of James B. and Eliza J. (Abrams) Thomas. The father was a native of Caroline county, Maryland, where he was born July 4, 1804. The mother was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. James Thomas was one of the first settlers in Hancock county. His father moved to Pickaway county, Ohio, when James was about six years of age. James remained here up to 1829, when he removed to Hancock county, where he filed upon ninety-eight acres of virgin forest land. He put up the usual log cabin and remained a year, when he returned to his home in Pickaway county, and there married our subject's mother, this being in 1832. They returned immediately to Hancock county, and passed the remainder of their lives engaged in agricultural pursuits. To them were born ten children, eight of whom are now living. James Thomas left the reputation of being a man of large heart whose sympathies were soon touched by the woes and wants of others. He was very charitable and of a generous cast of character. During his lifetime he held some of the township offices, and at his death distributed his property to his family. The mother of this family died in 1863, on the 1st of April, while the father lived until November of 1877.

Mr. John A. Thomas, whose name initiates this paragraph, was therefore reared and educated in Findlay township. He was but a lad when the Civil war came on, but he watched with interest the progress of events which precipitated the country into that sanguinary conflict, and when the storm broke he was found among the boys in blue who went forth to battle for the Union. He enrolled as a private soldier in Company G, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on the 5th of December, 1863. In this or-

ganization he participated in some of the bloody battles of the war, some of which were as follows: Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Altoona, Kennesaw Mountain, Vining Station, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Savannah and Bentonville. He was fortunate in passing through this experience without harm, and received his discharge July 25, 1865. Returning from the war, his thirst for knowledge was such that although advanced in age for a school boy, he entered the Findlay high school and passed some time in the pursuit of knowledge. After leaving school he went west to the state of Missouri, where he became apprenticed to the carpenter's trade, and after spending three years in the west he returned to his native county, where for the next two years he was engaged at his trade. In 1871, having the previous year, on January 27, married Lydia A. Kiehl, second daughter of Eli and Maria (Uber) Kiehl, he removed with his family to Kansas, where he remained for a period of four years. There he followed his trade. The charms of his native county were too great, however, and he again returned and has since been a resident within her borders. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have reared a family of six children: Etta, Almeda, Albert R., Bessie P., Mary G. and John A., Jr. The mother of this family was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 20th of October, 1849, and is of German descent. Mr. Thomas has figured prominently in his township, and is a man of forceful character. He is at the present time holding the office of assessor. In the G. A. R. organization he has taken an active interest and has been honored with the office of commander of Stoker Post of Findlay. As a contracting carpenter Mr. Thomas enjoys the entire confidence of his wide field of patrons, and the large number of fine residences which he has built in the city of Findlay and adjacent territory, is a lasting monument of his skill and ingenuity. He and his family are held in high repute in their native city, and deserve and receive the best wishes of a large circle of acquaintances.

WILLIAM J. CUSAC.

The Cusac family has been intimately connected with the development of Hancock county since pioneer days. Its members have been active not only in wresting from nature lands of the primeval forest, in maintaining a glorious fight for the Union during secession times, but also in serving through quiet seasons the needs of a community progressive in agriculture, mining and education.

From the day that Daniel Cusac, a quiet, unassuming man, bought

from the government a tract of land in Liberty township, the family has been continuously engaged in converting the forest into arable land. They have not been content to till the improved soil, but from time to time they have given up the old for new and uncleared tracts, though the first land purchased from the government has always remained in the family, and is now the property of William Cusac.

John Cusac, son of Daniel and father of William J. Cusac, was born in Ohio, May 20, 1820, and soon after came to Hancock county with his father. He married a native of Pennsylvania, Miss Nancy Bell, who was born in 1823. They had six children: The four still living are: J. S., Abbie, Emeline and William J. Cusac.

John Cusac bought his first farm of forty acres at the time of his marriage. This he cleared and shortly after sold, buying in turn three other farms, which he improved and subsequently sold. He now lives in Portage township on a fine farm, which is the fifth piece of land that he has brought under cultivation. His life has been decidedly active, useful and progressive. When improved methods of farming began to be put into practice and the benefits of unified action and mutual helpfulness presented themselves to the farming community, he was among the first to call into existence the idea of an organization which speedily materialized in the form of the Hancock County Agricultural Association. For many years he acted as its president, dictating its affairs with remarkable wisdom.

William J. Cusac was born in Liberty township November 9, 1841, where he received his early training and education. He turned his attenton to farming with the view of making it his life work, and, with the exception of three years spent in the military service of his country, agriculture has been his uninterrupted pursuit. In 1862 he enlisted in Company G of the Eighty-seventh Ohio Infantry. He was taken prisoner, sent home on parole and in the following year exchanged. Thereupon, in 1863, he entered the Army of the Cumberland, as a member of Battery L, First Ohio Artillery, serving as sergeant and being actively engaged in Tennessee. In 1865 he was honorably discharged, and returning to civil life once more took up the quiet duties of the farm. The same year he married Miss Naoma, daughter of the pioneer, Joseph Morrill. She was born in Liberty township in 1845. Seven children were born to them: Charles, Frank, Effie, Hattie, Joseph, Florence and Bertha. Of these all except the second son, Frank, are still living. In 1872 he made his first investment of sixty-six acres. By hard work he increased his holdings from time to time, until in 1889 he owned one hundred and twenty-six acres, the size of his estate today. This land is

valuable not only for agricultural purposes, but for its twelve oil-producing wells, which yield a considerable output annually.

Besides being the president of the Hancock County Agricultural Association, an honor which has descended to him from his father, Mr. Cusac has identified himself actively with the G. A. R. He has been a director of the county infirmary for seven years, and a member of the school board for twelve years. Like his father and Daniel Cusac, the grandsire, he has made for himself many friends, who will always find him at the head of all enterprises that speak of healthy progress. He is a Republican in politics.

JOHN SCHOONOVER.

John Schoonover is one of the prominent farmers of Hancock county, who is the fortunate possessor of a large, well improved farm located in Liberty township, in the oil belt, and receives the revenues of several producing wells.

The birth of John Schoonover occurred in Franklin county, Ohio, March 8, 1827, and he was the third in a family of six children born to his parents, Abraham and Margaret (Baker) Schoonover, the former of whom was born in Virginia, in September, 1794, and the latter in Maryland, in May, 1803. They were of Dutch ancestry. In 1831 Abraham removed to Ohio and located on a farm north of Findlay, where he died in 1864, but his widow survived until March 21, 1876. Both were worthy people and although they never accumulated large means, they taught their children industrious habits and set them examples of moral lives.

Although our subject was not surrounded by plenty in his youth and was forced to work for his possessions, he has never regretted this necessity, but can now point to his three great farms and thus show what can be accomplished by frugal and persevering industry. Mr. Schoonover owns two hundred and eighty acres of as fine land as there is in Hancock county and is justly regarded as one of her most substantial citizens.

In 1851 he was united in marriage with Mary Comer, and to this union were born nine children, six of these still surviving, namely: Suffronia, born in 1852; Samilda, born in 1854; Amos P., born in 1862; William L., born in 1865; Harvey, born in 1870; and Clara, born in 1874.

Mr. Schoonover has been honored with many testimonials of the general esteem in which he is held. For twenty-eight years he was township treasurer, was supervisor and school director. Both he and wife are leading mem-

Mary Shoonover

John Schoonover.

bers of the United Brethren church and he is a liberal supporter of the same. Few men in his community stand in higher public esteem.

Mrs. Mary C. Schoonover was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1831, and is a daughter of Isaac and Hannah (Burton) Comer, who were married October 25, 1830. Isaac Comer was born in Virginia, January 2, 1793, and died September 3, 1852. His first wife, Hannah Culp, was born in Ohio, September 9, 1803. His second wife, Hannah Burton, was born February 6, 1802.

Isaac Comer was one of the early settlers of Hancock county, coming hither in 1832 when wild beasts and savages still roamed the forests. He first settled on the farm which is at present the property of Jacob Wagoner. At the time of his death he owned two hundred and forty acres. Mr. Comer was the true pioneer, openhearted, frank and hospitable; he was not only respected but was much beloved. His home was the home of the Baptist minister; his was the hand that opened to the call of distress. He filled many of the township offices and was an important factor in the development of this section. His children numbered eleven, five of whom are living. Mrs. Schoonover is the sixth in order of birth. In politics Mr. Schoonover is a Republican.

JOSEPH BENSON CLAYTON.

Joseph Benson Clayton, who is one of the highly respected substantial and leading men of Van Buren, Ohio, is a worthy representative of an old colonial family, many of its members having been prominent in various walks of life. Henry Clayton, the grandfather of Joseph B. Clayton, was a captain in the Revolutionary war, who was captured by the Hessians, and his widow drew through life a pension from the government. The family was of English origin and probably first located in Virginia.

Joseph B. Clayton was born in Washington county, Maryland, in 1833, and is a son of Joseph and Louisa (Shawman) Clayton, the former of whom was born in Virginia, and the latter in Kentucky. Joseph Clayton was a civil engineer by profession, an experienced teacher, noted as a mathematician, and also succeeded as a merchant. He was a member of the Methodist church. His family consisted of nine children, eight of whom still survive, but Joseph B. is the only one residing in Hancock county. He was reared and educated in Fairfield county, Ohio, learned the trade of a plasterer and for thirty-five years has been one of the most reliable workmen in his line in Hancock county, whither he removed in 1858. On account of his

complete knowledge of his business, his care and exactness, he has always found his services in demand. Prior to coming to Hancock county he served as captain of militia. Mr. Clayton has been a provident man, and has accumulated much property, owning one hundred acres in Van Buren township, Hancock county.

January 2, 1860, Mr. Clayton was joined in marriage with Miss Caroline Meyers, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, in 1839, and to this union were born four children: Willis M., who for some time was president of the State Normal School at Ashland, Oregon, but now in California; Lottie; Louise; and Georgiana, deceased.

Mr. Clayton is a valued member of the order of Odd Fellows, a man of whom his associates speak with respect, and justly regarded as a representative citizen. He is a Democrat in national affairs, though locally he supports the men whom in his judgment are best.

WILLIAM I. KIEFER.

One of the most straightforward, energetic and successful business men of Findlay is William I. Kiefer. In industrial circles he is an important factor, and his popularity is well deserved, for in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that has never flagged. He is a public spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of Findlay, and for many years he has been numbered among its most valued and honored citizens.

A native son of the Buckeye state, Mr. Kiefer was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 14th of July, 1857, which county his father, John Michael Kiefer, also claimed as his nativity, his birth there occurring in 1832. Throughout his entire business career the latter devoted his energies to the tilling of the soil, and he lived and died in Wayne county, being summoned into eternal rest in 1880. The Kiefer family trace their lineage to the fatherland, the paternal grandfather of our subject having been a native of Germany. William I., of this review, remained in the place of his nativity until fourteen years of age, during which time he attended its district schools, and at that age he entered the high school at Smithville, Ohio, in which he continued his studies for three years. On leaving the school room as a pupil he again entered it as an instructor, being at that time seventeen years of age, and the profession of teaching school continued to claim his efforts for six years, his labors being confined to the county of Wayne. On the

expiration of that period he purchased an interest in a mercantile establishment at Smithville, Ohio, where he remained for three years, while for the following five years he was engaged in merchandising in Sterling, this state. In the year 1885 he came to Findlay and entered the insurance and loan business, to which vocation he has since directed his efforts, and in his chosen endeavor he is meeting with a high and well merited degree of success. His reputation in all trade transactions has ever been above question, and to an unusual degree he enjoys the confidence and regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact through business dealings.

The marriage of Mr. Kiefer was celebrated in Findlay, in 1882, when Miss Gertrude Beardsley became his wife. In his fraternal relations our subject is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and his political support is given to the principles of the Republican party. Mr. Kiefer keeps well informed on the issues of the day, both political and otherwise, and at all times has manifested a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the city of his choice. He is a man of genial temperament and genuine worth, and is popular and respected in all circles.

JESSE L. DOZER.

The career of the soldier is always interesting, and in all local history the soldiers must have an honored place. There are yet living in Washington township, Hancock county, Ohio, several ex-soldiers of the Civil war who are regarded with peculiar respect, but none of these is held in higher esteem than the subject of this notice. Mr. Dozer, at the breaking out of the Civil war, laid aside all personal interests to aid in defense of the old flag and what it represents. He enlisted in Company A, of the Twenty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the Fifteenth army corps of the army of the Tennessee. He participated in all of the principal battles in which this army was engaged, following old glory while the bullets fell fast and thick above him, but luckily passing through the entire experience without being harmed. He was in the noted march to the sea with "Uncle Billy Sherman," and returned with his army through the Carolinas. He was honorably discharged on the 28th of July, 1865. He returned home to enjoy the blessings of an unsundered union, in the preservation of which he bore an honorable part.

Jesse L. Dozer is at the present time proprietor and operator of the J. L. Dozer quarry in Washington township, which covers four acres and

contains a stone deposit two hundred and seventy feet deep. It is one of the largest quarries in northern Ohio, and yields an excellent product, which is used largely in the construction of buildings throughout the northern part of the state. The product from the quarries is peculiarly valuable in macadamizing and concrete work, and for the latter use cannot be surpassed. Mr. Dozer was born in Muskingum county, Ohio. His parents, George and Elizabeth (Lefler) Dozer, were natives of Pennsylvania, and were among the earliest pioneers in Muskingum county, Ohio. The father was a man of influence and prominence in his day, for a long period of years serving in the office of justice of the peace, and also as trustee of his township in the above mentioned county. He was a Jeffersonian Democrat in political belief, originally a member of the Lutheran church, and died April 5, 1851, his wife surviving him until December 28, 1870. Their household at one time contained thirteen children, of which number, despite its supposedly unlucky character, but one has been claimed by death, and that fatality occurred in February, 1901. Jesse L. Dozer was educated in the schools of Zanesville, Ohio, and, as previously stated, no event of importance occurred to mar the monotonous character of his life until he entered the army. Upon his return from the war he devoted himself to learning the carpenter's trade, and subsequently drifted into the lumber business, in which he continued up to 1885. He then for a number of years caried on a well-drilling business, in which he became widely known, having the record of drilling two hundred and ninety-eight water wells in and around Fostoria. He had removed to Hancock county in 1883, in which time he has been a loyal citizen of the county. He is a worthy member of Norris Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and a communicant of the Methodist Episcopal church, whose interests he is always active in advancing. The marriage of Mr. Dozer was celebrated in Wayne township, Muskingum county, November 3, 1869. Mary E. McGinness, whom he wedded, was the daughter of Samuel and Sophia (Morris) McGinness, and her children were five in number: Leonard A.; Clyde, deceased; Laura M.; Harold E.; Russell E. Mrs. Dozer was born September 8, 1851. Her father, Samuel McGinness, was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her mother, Sophia Morris, was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Morris, and was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1823. She died August 18, 1902, having become the mother of seven children, two daughters and five sons, all living but the oldest son. Mrs. Dozer is the second child and eldest daughter. She was reared, educated and married in her native county. Her father was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1821, and

by occupation was a farmer, and lived on the same farm seventy-two years. This farm was entered by his father, Johnston McGinness, who moved from Berks county, Pennsylvania, to Ohio in an early day. They were of Scotch Irish descent, and members of the Society of Friends or Quakers. Mr. Dozer is highly respected by his friends and is popular among his business associates.

JOHN HECK.

There is no class of people in the United States to-day which so well represents the independence and prosperity of our people as the retired farmers. After many years of strong and earnest endeavor and hard labor, in simple communion with nature, wrestling an existence from the soil, the farmer who sees his efforts crowned with success, and his occupation, once so humble, become one of the most dignified, its time-worn methods improved and extended, has many things to enjoy, and is entitled to high rank among his fellow citizens.

Mr. John Heck came of a line of farmers and was born on a farm in York county, Pennsylvania, October 11, 1836, though he passed his early childhood in Milltown, Cumberland county, in the same state. When he was eight years of age his parents removed to Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, where he was reared and received his education. In May, 1865, he moved into the city of Findlay, where he lived until 1867, when he moved to a farm in Findlay township, where he was engaged in farming until 1874, when he returned to Findlay, where he opened a hardware store, in partnership with other members of his family. He continued in the hardware business for eighteen months, when the farm again claimed him. He remained on his farm until 1887, at which time he retired and moved back to Findlay, where he has lived ever since, except one year spent at Carey, Wyandotte county.

Mr. Heck's grandfather was John Heck, who was born and died in Pennsylvania. The first John Heck was a farmer all his life. His father was George Heck, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1810, and died in Hancock county in 1894; he also was a farmer. Mr. Heck was married in Hancock county, December 18, 1856, to Lydia Sherick. Mrs. Heck was born in Wayne county, Ohio, February 5, 1840, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Funk) Sherick. Her parents both died in Liberty township, Hancock county, the father in 1886, and the mother in 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Heck have four children, of whom one is dead. Those living are Barbara Etta, wife of S. C. Shoup, whose children are Blanche and Ada M.;

David, who married Ida Small, and whose children are Carl, John, Ira, Ralph, Saxon and Gladys; and William E., who married Nora Wagner, and has three children, Howard, George and Clyde. Mr. Heck has one great-grandson, Maynard Cramm.

Mr. Heck has always been a progressive citizen, and has been identified with the important movements of his chosen place of residence. In 1887, when gas was discovered on his farm, he had the first well sunk in that vicinity, which started the boom. He is a prominent member and a trustee of the Church of God. His generosity and benevolence are well known, as was evidenced by his gift of eleven hundred dollars to Findlay College. In politics he has been a life long Republican.

CHRISTOPHER GARBER.

France, though not so famous as some other countries in the matter of colonization, has contributed some valuable emigration to the new world, included in which is the family to which this biography is devoted. Peter Garber, who was born in France in 1811, learned the blacksmith's trade and supported himself by this occupation as long as he remained in his native land. In early manhood he married a young French girl, named Barbara Saltzmann, and in 1851 the young couple concluded that they could better their fortunes in the rising republic across the sea. Accordingly, they came over in that year, made their way to Hancock county, Ohio, and found a location in Big Lick township. Peter Garber was a poor man when he arrived, with no other reliance for success than his brain and muscle, backed by a willingness to work and good sense to guide his operations. He secured possession of one hundred acres of land, which he cultivated in summer, while his blacksmith shop was kept busy during the winter season. By this continued occupation, kept up with unceasing industry and judicious management, our worthy French emigrant succeeded in accumulating a handsome property, which supported the family in comfort during the lifetime of the parents, and eventually made a valuable legacy for the children. Peter and Barbara Garber lived to a venerable age and passed peaceably away within a few years of each other, the former's death occurring January 25, 1892, and that of the latter December 15, 1894. Their three children, Peter, Ellen and Christopher, were all born in the old country before the emigration to America. Christopher Garber, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born at his father's humble home in France February 2, 1847, and hence was but four years of age when the long voyage was undertaken

across the Atlantic. He received all his education in Big Lick township, attending the public schools and assisting his father in his various occupations. Being brought up to habits of industry and economy and taught the practical details of agriculture, he possessed the needed equipment for the success he achieved in after life. It was in 1872 that he made the first business venture on his own account by the purchase of forty acres of land, which he cultivated assiduously and, as prosperity came, increased at different times until his entire estate amounted to one hundred and thirty acres. When it is said that all this land, besides some city property in Findlay, was accumulated by Mr. Garber within ten years, it is not necessary to furnish further proof either of his untiring industry or his good management. He has devoted himself exclusively to agricultural pursuits and ranks among the most progressive and enterprising of Hancock's farmers. That he is popular in his adopted country and that he stands well as a business man, is fully attested by his election as county commissioner in 1891. The manner in which he discharged the duties of this important position during his term left no cause for regret on the part of his friends for the confidence they had reposed in him. Besides the commissionership Mr. Garber has also filled the offices of justice of the peace and trustee of his township in a manner entirely satisfactory to those most concerned. Both in public and private life Mr. Garber is always found safe and reliable and an advocate of all those things which, in the language of Matthew Arnold, "make for righteousness." Besides his general farming, which he carries on extensively, he deals in stock on a large scale and is one of the large shippers of the county. December 5, 1872, Mr. Garber was married to Miss Elizabeth F., daughter of Samuel and Isabelle (Curry) Leonard, and this union has proved in every way a congenial and happy one. Their only child is a son, Leroy E., whose birth occurred November 21, 1876, and whose character and career has been such as to justify the affection bestowed upon him by his fond parents. He is engaged in the wool and seed business at Findlay with his father, and has already established a reputation in business circles which gives promise of great future success. Leroy E. Garber was married some years ago to Miss Ora Enfield, member of an old and respected family, and their household has been brightened by the birth of two children: John W., born March 7, 1899; and Frances, born April 1, 1901. Mrs. Garber was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for forty years, but for the last few years has been a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Garber, although not a member of any church, lends his influence towards morality and all that is good.

A word or two concerning the venerable parents of Mrs. Garber will prove of interest. Samuel Leonard was born in Pennsylvania, but his wife, Isabelle Curry, was a native of Ohio, where the former became a successful farmer. Both are living, and celebrated their eighty-seventh birthdays in 1902, his occurring in March and hers in November of that year. John Curry, father of Isabelle Leonard, was born in Ireland and came to the United States when fifteen years old. He was a weaver by trade, and also farmed, was a life-long member of the Presbyterian church, and died at a good old age, respected by all who knew him. Robert Leonard, father of Samuel, was born in Pennsylvania, of old Holland Dutch stock, but removed to Hancock county about 1838, where he followed farming. He was a ruler in the Presbyterian church for half a century, and died at the age of seventy-six years.

SAMUEL SWAB.

Among the prominent and substantial citizens of Cass township, Hancock county, Ohio, must be mentioned Samuel Swab, whose great estate of three hundred and fifty-eight acres is not only well situated for farming and stock-raising purposes, but it is also valuable on account of containing twenty-four oil producing wells.

The birthplace and home of our subject until he was nine years of age, was in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on August 5, 1845, and is a son of George and Mary (Rodabaugh) Swab. His education was acquired in the schools of Cass township and his subsequent life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits.

George Swab, the father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1813, where his wife was born in 1826. She died in the winter of 1848, their family consisting of four children, namely: Mary, deceased; Barbara E., deceased; David and Samuel. In his young manhood George Swab worked at various occupations, principally teaming, but later learned the distilling business which he followed for sixteen years. He thus accumulated means with which to move to Hancock county, Ohio, and purchase a farm of eighty acres, twenty of which had been cleared. He was born of most worthy parents, George and Barbara (Coder) Swab, and as they were in limited circumstances, he assisted in their care. His residence now is on his fine farm in Cass township, still in the enjoyment of health despite his advanced years, and he has always been respected in his community.

Barbra Swab

Samuel Swal.

Such were the honorable ancestors of our subject. In 1872 he received a gift of forty acres of land from his father and his own energies enabled him to add to this until it is the large and productive estate mentioned above. Here he erected commodious and suitable buildings, on modern lines, and is surrounded with all of the comforts of life. He has taken an active part in politics, being like his father, an ardent Republican, and he has been called upon to serve his township in a number of offices, as trustee and supervisor, and as a member of the school board. He was also township treasurer, being a man of such reliability that his fellow citizens have been glad to so honor him.

In 1872 Mr. Swab was married to Miss Barbara Kagy, born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1847, and a daughter of Samuel and Hannah Kagy. To this union there were born: Blanch, who married John Nusser; Delora, who married Charles Harry; Samuel K., who married Bessie Ullery; and Pearl A.

Mr. Swab is generally regarded as a thorough business man, known to be of strict integrity and is truly a representative citizen. His residence, one of the best in Cass township, is situated upon ground sufficiently elevated to lend a commanding view of the surrounding country. The house and barn, which were built about forty years ago, were remodeled eight years ago by Mr. Swab.

JAMES W. KELLEY.

The descendants of the Irish race have long been noted for their adaptability and quickness in grasping opportunities. Where another man would fail, the man with Irish blood in his veins will see the chance of a lifetime, and proceed to make the most of it in the shortest time.

Of such stock has James W. Kelley descended. His father, William Kelley, was born in Ireland in 1812, and came to America in 1839 to seek new fortunes. He died in 1875, leaving a widow, who died in 1895, and eight children, five sons and three daughters.

Mr. Kelley was born in Allegany, New York, in 1866, where he lived until he was twenty-three years of age. He obtained his education in the public schools and at St. Bonaventure's College, and from 1888 to 1891 taught in the public schools of that place. With the view of enlarging his horizon and engaging in some business enterprise, he followed his brother, T. C. Kelley, to Findlay, Ohio, who had preceded him about two years and was already established in the oil business. Mr. Kelley decided to hazard his fortunes in the same manner and at once went into the oil producing business, in which he is now actively occupied.

Mr. Kelley is a prominent member of the Roman Catholic church, and has its interests thoroughly at heart, as is evidenced by the fact that he is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. He thoroughly believes in the principles of democracy, and carries his belief into his political and business life. In the spring election of 1902 he was elected a member of the city council by an overwhelming majority, receiving a greater majority than his Republican opponent did votes.

NORMAN SALTSMAN.

Prominent among the representative citizens of Hancock county, who have by honest toil and industry succeeded in acquiring a handsome competence and are now able to spend the sunset of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name appears above, his home being in Washington township, a short distance west of the city of Fostoria. He was born in Montgomery county, New York, in the town of Mohawk, July 20, 1834, and is the son of Frederick I. and Mary (Kiltz) Saltsman, both of whom were natives of New York state. The parents of Mr. Saltsman died quite early in life in their native state. Their family numbered nine children, only two of whom are now living. The maternal grandfather, Peter Kiltz, was an honored soldier in the Revolutionary war. Norman Saltsman was reared and educated in his native township and grew up under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the farm amid pioneer scenes. At the age of nineteen he learned the carpenter trade, which he followed up to 1862. In 1859 he moved to Fostoria, Seneca county, near which village, in 1862, he purchased eighty-five acres of land in Hancock county, on a portion of which he now resides, having at various times parted with the remainder. In 1899 he became interested in the Fostoria Oil and Gas Company, of which organization he has been president for a period of twelve years. He is well thought of in his immediate community, and was trustee of the township in 1882. He erected the beautiful home in which he now resides in 1875. Mr. Saltsman was one of the "boys in blue" at the time when the dogs of war were let loose, from 1861 to 1865. He enlisted as a private soldier in Company G, One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the army of the Cumberland. He served in this organization for a period and was promoted for efficient service to the office of corporal. He was honorably discharged September 28, 1865, and on his return to civil life again took up his former pursuits. As has been stated before, Mr. Saltsman has been very successful in a material way in life. He

is engaged in the real-estate business, in which he is regarded as being one of the best authorities and safest counselors in Hancock county. He is at present director of the Commercial Bank and Savings Company, of Fostoria, Ohio. He chose for a life companion Mrs. Jerusha Brundage, the marriage occurring January 14, 1858, at Buffalo, New York. No children have been born to the marriage. Mrs. Saltsman was born in Waterloo, Seneca county, New York, April 3, 1825, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Davis, who were born in Queens county, New York, the father of English and Scotch and the mother of Scotch descent. There were ten children in the family, but Mrs. Saltsman is the only survivor. In political belief Mr. Saltsman is a simon pure Republican, taking an active part in advancing the interests and policies of that party. He and his wife are both members of the M. E. Church, and are citizens whose position in the community assures them a welcome mention in this volume.

M. A. ADAMS.

The family of this name is well known in Hancock county for its general intelligence and good qualities of citizenship. They are of Irish extraction and descended from William and Sara Adams. Of the latter's family was Paul Adams, Sr., born in 1758, who was twice married, first to Sara Bogart, born January 6, 1744, and secondly to Abigail Parkhurst, born May 14, 1774. The latter died on the sixth of November, 1843, and her husband in 1834. Of the family of Paul Adams, Sr., and his second wife, Abigail Parkhurst, was Paul Adams, Jr., a native of Pennsylvania, born April 28, 1811. He was educated for the ministry of the Presbyterian church, but by some disturbing factor his attention was turned to the teaching profession. His superior educational advantages so equipped him for his chosen profession that he made an excellent teacher. He was also somewhat of a linguist, having command of four languages. He taught twenty years in Pennsylvania in the earlier part of his life, and also after he came to Ohio. He married Miss Margaret Diehl, who was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1808. The union was blessed with nine children, five of whom are now living. In 1835 the family removed from Pennsylvania to Richland county, Ohio, where Mr. Adams taught school, and latter entered eighty acres of land in Hancock county, to which he had removed in 1841 with his family. He went at once to clearing the land of its timber, and constructed for his family a log house which stood until the spring of 1902 as evidence of his handiwork. He continued this labor until the date of his death, Jan-

uary 28, 1850. Paul Adams, Jr., was a man of greater mental than physical strength and his constitution gave way early under the severe pressure of pioneer life. After his premature decease his wife and son, the subject of this sketch, worked heroically to keep the family at home. She with her wheel and loom spun and wove cloth for garments for her children, while the different members of the family headed by our subject did the necessary work on the farm. They were thus able to keep the members of the family together until they were able to do for themselves. After this the mother in 1860 married David Dorsey, a member of an old pioneer family, whose son, Allen, by a former wife, was the first white male child born in Cass township. Paul Adams, Jr., was a man of influence in his adopted county. He was township treasurer for seven years, and was nominated by the Democrats for auditor of the county, but did not receive enough votes to elect. His wife, Margaret D. Adams, ceased from her earthly toils December 14, 1891.

Mr. M. A. Adams, who forms the immediate subject of this review, was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1833. Coming to this county at an early age, he was educated in the common schools and showed such proficiency that he aspired to a college course. This, however, became impossible, because of the early death of his father and the necessity for his services on the farm. He, however, received enough education to follow teaching for several years during the winter months. His first purchase of land was in 1858, and consisted of a modest tract of twelve acres. To this small holding he added at various times until he is now in possession of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which there is a flowing gas well. As Mr. Adams looks out over his broad acres he has the satisfaction of knowing that his own labor has brought the farm to its high state of cultivation, it being now one of the best in the county. Underlying this farm there are some seventeen miles of tile, which give him an almost unbroken area for crop purposes. Mr. Adams practices the most up-to-date methods on his farm, and hence is looked upon as a very progressive agriculturist. For example he has produced for the past several decades twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre, a record which cannot be surpassed in Hancock county. During his adult life he has ever given his time freely to the matters that would benefit the community at large, has served as a member of the board of education for fifteen years and as justice of the peace of his township for three years. He celebrated his marriage with Miss Cordelia Dorsey, October 15, 1863. This lady was the daughter of David and Rose Dorsey, and is also a native of Hancock county, where she was born January 13, 1842. Their family consisted of the following children: Margaret R., Clara A., de-

ceased, Sara E., Viola, deceased, Nathan S., Nellie and Ada. Mr. and Mrs. Adams are esteemed members of the Methodist Episcopal church, the former having been for a long period a class leader and trustee in that organization.

It is something to live; it is more so to live that society shall be the better or our having had existence. Mr. and Mrs. Adams and their family are held in the highest repute by all who know them, and are most worthy members of their community.

WILLIAM A. LEAR.

Among the many industries of Findlay that of William A. Lear, who deals in wall paper, picture frames and house decorating materials, is well known and patronized.

Mr. Lear is of Pennsylvania stock, having been born in Minersville, Pennsylvania, in 1846. When he was four years old his parents sought new fortunes in Ohio, making their home in Delaware. Mr. Lear lived in Delaware, with the exception of his war service, and two years on the plains, until 1880, so that he looks on Delaware almost as his native town, for it was there he received his education and laid the foundation of his subsequent business career. At an early age he began to learn the trade of paper hanging and house painting, but in April, 1861, when the war broke out, he enlisted in Company I, Fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but being under fifteen years of age, his father came to his camp within a week after he had enlisted, and got him out. But the boy's desire to go to war would not be conquered, and he again enlisted in the fall of 1861, at Delaware, in Company C, Twentieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His father, however, was obdurate, and much against the son's will again got him out of the army. He determined, however, as soon as he was old enough that nothing should keep him from it, and in June, 1862, enlisted for the third time, in Company F, Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving as a private until the end of the war. He was in a number of important battles, among which were Haynes Bluff, Mississippi; Arkansas Post, Arkansas; the Siege of Vicksburg; the Grand Coteau, Louisiana, where he was captured November 3, 1863, and sent to Alexandria, Louisiana, and there held for fifty-one days. Mr. Lear tells of the terrible life of the soldiers in this place; they were fed on nothing but sugar cane, which was thrown to them like corn to cattle. He was paroled from this prison December 25, 1863, and declared exchanged by congress in May, 1864. The next battle in which he took part was at Fort Gaines, Alabama, after which followed those

of Fort Morgan, Alabama, the Spanish Fort, and the surrender of Mobile. He was slightly wounded in the left leg by a piece of shell at Arkansas Post, though he was never sick or reported unfit for duty. He was mustered out in Mobile, Alabama, July 7, 1865, and received his discharge papers at Columbus, Ohio, August 1, 1865.

At the close of the war he returned to Delaware, where he took up the trade he had laid down while serving his country. He contracted for paper hanging and painting in Delaware until 1867, when he went west and spent the next two years on the plains. He again returned to Delaware, and remained there until 1880, working at his trade. In 1880 he took advantage of an opening in Cleveland and ran a restaurant there for six years; in 1886 he came to Findlay, and returned to his profession, opening up a wall paper store and adding other lines as his business increased.

Mr. Lear has been twice married, his first wife having been Mary F. Parks, who died December 27, 1880, leaving four children: Harry C., born September 20, 1869; Virginia V., wife of Willis Stover of Findlay; Etta M., born February 29, 1876, died September 18, 1894; Charles W., born August 26, 1878. Mr. Lear's second wife was Eliza W. Mechling, to whom he was married in Cleveland in 1883. They have no children.

There is no man in Findlay better versed in Masonry than Mr. Lear, for he holds the thirty-second degree; he is also past grand master of F. & A. M. Lodge No. 227 at Findlay; past high priest of Chapter No. 58; past thrice illustrious master of Findlay Council No. 50; past eminent commander of Findlay Commandery No. 49, Knights Templar; past chancellor of Findlay Lodge No. 85, Knights of Pythias. Mr. Lear is a strong Republican and gives his earnest support to the policies of his party. He is a member of the Howard Methodist Episcopal church, and was cemetery trustee of Findlay for four years.

JOHN BEARD.

It takes a strong soul, a courageous nature to leave the comforts of a civilized home for the privations and hardships of the frontier. When Joel Beard came to Hancock county, in 1827, he brought with him a family of three generations. The region was still a vast wilderness, and, though the Indians were still numerous but friendly, these early pioneers suffered many and severe hardships. Game was fortunately plentiful, for they were often compelled to go without the foods of civilization. Once they had neither bread nor salt for a period of six months. Deer and turkey roamed

through the forest, and the skill of the Kentucky marksman many a time saved these brave frontiersmen from starvation. Clothing, too, was scarce; the skins of the roebuck replaced the cottons and woolens of ordinary usage. John, the younger, wore a buckskin suit for seven years. But industry and perseverance can make even the wilderness habitable. The father planted flax and the mother spun the fibre and wove it into cloth; the coat of skin was laid aside. When further development permitted attention to animal husbandry a flock of sheep cropped the herbage in the clearing and John was clad in woolens.

Upon coming to Hancock county the two elder members of the Beard family, John and Joel, each entered eighty acres of land in Marion township from the government, cleared it and built a log hut in which Joel lived until his death. Joel later added forty acres to his holding and brought the whole under cultivation. Both were natives of Kentucky. They were men of sterling qualities, able to cope with the difficulties that beset the path of the frontiersman. Both have passed away, but both will go down in the hitsory of this community as thoroughly good men.

John had fought in the war of 1812 against Great Britain, and many were the nights that he held his neighbors spellbound, listening to the tales of wild adventure as they sat about the open fire. He was a member of the United Brethren church. Neither his wife Rebecca nor any of their ten children are now living. Joel was born in 1799. He married Mrs. Catherine Potter, a widow, by whom he had six children. Five of these are living, namely: John, Mary, Emma E., Clarissa and Alexander. His wife Catherine died in 1852. The following year he married Solona Hartman, who bore him five children, of whom four survive. None of them reside in this county. Joel lived until 1885, and Solona, his second wife, died in 1897.

John Beard, the grandson, was born in Fairfield county in 1825. He worked on his father's farm until the time of his marriage at the age of twenty-four. In 1852 he made his first purchase of land. It comprised eighty acres in Hancock county. After working it a few years, however, he disposed of this and bought his present farm of eighty acres, which is without doubt one of the finest farms on Blanchard road. Besides being a practical and progressive farmer, Mr. Beard is well up in current events. He has a keen insight into political affairs, and sides with the Republican party. He holds the confidence of the community whom he has served as supervisor on the county board. Mr. Beard did not see active military service during the Civil war. He was enrolled as member of Company

H of the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, but supplied a substitute.

In marrying Hannah A. George on February 17, 1853, Mr. Beard allied himself with one of the oldest families of Hancock county. She was born March 11, 1832, as the daughter of Peter and Mary Ann George. The father, long and widely known as the "Land Hunter," was a native of Pennsylvania, born there on October 13, 1799. He had moved to Pickaway county, this state, and as early as 1823 visited this county, though it was not until 1826 that he settled here permanently. He entered land in Liberty and Amanda townships, and at the time of his death owned three hundred and seven acres in the heart of Amanda township. He acted as guide to those who had come west for new lands, and helped them decide on locations and settlements. He was known to be strictly honorable and upright in his dealings with all, and has been well termed one of nature's noblemen. He raised a family of nine children; two of these lost their lives in the cause of national union and all but a few have passed away.

The Beard and George families are probably the oldest and best known in Hancock county.

ABRAHAM W. SCOTHORN.

Abraham W. Scothorn is extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits. Success in any calling is an indication of close application, industry and faithfulness, qualities which are numbered among the leading characteristics of our subject, and the greatest reward of the successful man is his consciousness of having acted well his part. This Mr. Scothorn has done, and to-day he stands among the highly respected citizens of his community. He was born in Reid township, Seneca county, Ohio, October 4, 1834. His father, Samuel Scothorn, was a native of the old Dominion state, but at the early age of twelve years he came with his parents to Ohio, locating in Franklin county, on the present site of Columbus, and his father in an early day planted corn on a part of the land on which that city now stands. At the age of eighteen years the son Samuel left the old home farm and learned the tanner's trade, following the same in Seneca county until reaching his twenty-first year. Removing thence to a farm in the woods, he there established a tannery and conducted the same for many years, during which time he did much work for the Indians. While residing on that place Mr. Scothorn kept a record of the game killed in the vicinity, and within a period of five years it amounted to two hundred and fifty deer and five hundred wild

Mr and Mrs A V Scothorn

turkeys. The mother of our subject, who bore the maiden name of Mary Smith, was a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and her death occurred when her son Abraham was but four years of age. She became the mother of six children. After her death the father was twice married, becoming the father of two children by this second marriage, while his third union was blessed with three children.

Abraham W. Scothorn, the sixth child in order of birth of his father's first marriage, was reared and educated in the county of his nativity, and after reaching his twenty-first year he left the old home place and came to Hancock county, his first work here being in the Bishop sawmill, south of Findlay, where he was employed for about four years. During the succeeding six years he conducted a farm belonging to Mr. Bishop, and in 1870 came to his present farm in Orange township, on which he has erected commodious and substantial buildings, built fences and placed his fields under an excellent state of cultivation, thus making his place one of the valuable homesteads of the township. On his farm of eighty acres are located eight oil wells, and he has also given a farm to each of his sons. In his political affiliations Mr. Scothorn is a stalwart supporter of Democratic principles, and for five years was the efficient clerk of Orange township, while for three years was its trustee and was elected to the position of treasurer, but did not qualify. In 1890 he was elected to the office of land appraiser, and in all his public duties he has been true to the trusts reposed in him.

The marriage of Mr. Scothorn was celebrated on the 14th of October, 1860, when Eliza A. Walters became his wife. She is a native daughter of Hancock county, her birth having occurred in Eagle township, and by her marriage she has become the mother of three children, namely: Florence R., wife of George Rote, of Van Wert county, Ohio; Walter W., who married Flora Porchort and resides in Michigan; and Herman H., who married Ella Henry, and they make their home in Eagle township, Hancock county. Mr. and Mrs. Scothorn also have five grandchildren—Floyd Rote, Burr, Lower, William A. Scothorn and one not named. This worthy couple enjoy the friendship of many with whom they have come in contact, for their many sterling characteristics have ever commanded the respect and regard of those with whom they have been associated. They have labored together earnestly, the work of the one supplementing and rounding out the work of the other, and their attractive home is a fitting monument to their labors. Mrs. Scothorn's father, Lower M. Walters, was born in Virginia and came to Eagle township, Hancock county, about 1834. His wife, Ruth Sharp, was born in Franklin county, Ohio. The father lived to be about seventy-nine years old and the

mother eighty-two. They were the parents of five children, three daughters and two sons, of whom the only two now living are Dr. Walters, of Ada, and Mrs. Scothorn, who was the youngest of the family.

SOLOMON SNIDER.

Prominently known as one of the representatives of a pioneer family of Hancock county, is Solomon Snider, who also deserves mention in this volume by reason of his own excellent qualities as a loyal citizen. He is a farmer of prominence and influence in Big Lick township, where he resides on an excellent farm of one hundred and eighty-three acres, and upon which there is in active operation eight producing oil wells. A number of others are in course of drilling.

Mr. Solomon Snider first opened his eyes to the light in the village of Findlay, March 8, 1839. His father was Samuel Snider, the maiden name of his mother having been Katherine Spangler. He grew to manhood in Findlay township, where he was given the advantage of a good common-school education. Like his ancestors before him he chose for his vocation in life the free and independent existence of a farmer, in which pursuit he has been very generally successful.

March 27, 1858, dates an epoch in the life of Mr. Snider, he having on that day been joined in marriage to Miss Ruth, daughter of Daniel and Jane Davis. For a period of three years they resided in Findlay township, and in 1861 removed to their present location in Big Lick township. Here he was engaged on his farm at the inception of the Civil war, and although with a growing family dependent upon him, he put aside all considerations of a personal character, for he felt that his duty was to his country. He enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier, and went to the front. The strange climate into which Mr. Snider was required to march under an August sun, proved too much for his rather precarious constitution and he succumbed to a sunstroke which incapacitated him for further usefulness. After four months of distressing sickness he was discharged on account of disability, the whole episode being one which Mr. Snider regrets to the present day. He, however, has always taken a great interest in the military life of the country, and is at present an honored and worthy member of Stoker Post of the G. A. R. The children that were born to Mr. and Mrs. Snider were Louis A., October 24, 1860; Eva L., April 20, 1864; Samuel E., September 20, 1865; Edgar M., June 4, 1872; Olive E., June 28, 1878.

Mrs. Snider is a member of one of the pioneer families of Hancock county, where she was born August 5, 1838. Her father, Daniel Davis, was a native of the state of Maryland, born in 1811. He was a mechanic by education, training and nature, being a man of very fine inventive faculty. He removed to this county in 1834, where he married in September of 1836. The family that he reared consisted of ten children, six of whom are now living: Ruth, Rachel, Henry, Mary, Jane and John. Mr. Davis died in the year 1849, at a comparatively early age, while his wife continued to survive him until 1884, she dying at the advanced age of seventy-two.

Returning again to the history of the Snider family we note that Samuel Snider, the father of our subject, was born in 1812 in Perry county, Ohio. His wife, Katherine Spangler, was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born in 1813. They married in Fairfield county, and subsequently removed to Hancock where they located in Findlay township. Here Samuel entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, all of which was in its native condition, and which he cleared. He endured the same hardships and surmounted the multiplied difficulties of which that early time was fraught. He was a good practical farmer in his day. In religious temperament he was extremely pious, being a member of the Lutheran church. He voted with the Republican party. He was a man of genial personality, made many friends, and by his consistent and upright dealings with them, was enabled to keep their friendship. He was sociable and hospitable in the extreme. He continued to reside on the original farm to the time of his death, which occurred in 1884, his wife surviving him three years. The family consisted of nine children; Isabelle, deceased; Louise, deceased; Solomon; Mary, deceased; William, George, Immanuel, Rebecca and Emma.

Mr. Snider is a public spirited and progressive citizen of Hancock county, and as such is honored and highly respected by a host of friends. While the family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, our subject does not belong but believes in a future and his actions in this life are of a charitable and honest kind, he giving in charity to all who apply. He has always been a strong Republican.

WILLIAM P. BLACK.

It is but a natural step from the oil fields of Pennsylvania to those of her sister state, Ohio, and among the great number of oil producers of Findlay who have originally engaged in the same occupation in their native state Mr. William P. Black is one of the foremost.

Mr. Black is of Irish descent, his grandfather having been born on the Emerald Isle, but came to America early in the eighteenth century to better his fortunes. He died in America, and has bepueathed to it something more than a name—his own sturdy independence and industry. His son, Patrick Black, the father of him whose name introduces our review, was born in Pennsylvania, in which state he died in 1892, at the age of eighty-three years. He was a blacksmith, and quite successfully combined his trade with farming. William P. Black was born in Freeport, Pennsylvania, in 1861, and soon afterward his parents moved to a farm in Armstrong county, where he lived until he was eighteen. As was the case with so many young men before him, the oil fields were a very strong attraction, and he began his work in that line in Bradford, his first work being that of dressing tools for drillers. He very early began to drill wells on his own account, and after five years went to Marietta, Ohio, and followed his work in the fields around that city for two years. The Findlay oil fields having shown great promise, he decided to try his luck in them, and the fact that he has since remained indicates that he made a wise choice. He thoroughly understands the business of drilling, and is constantly engaged in drilling for others and in producing on his own account.

Mr. Black was united in marriage, in Findlay, to Ora Williams, daughter of Levi and Amanda (Dempster) Williams. Mrs. Black's parents were both born in Ohio, her father's occupation being that of hotel-keeping and farming. He died in 1896, and she in 1900, their entire lives having been passed in this state. Mrs. Black's maternal grandmother was Violet Dempster. Mr. Black is an adherent of the Democratic party, though not actively engaged in politics.

JACOB FRUTH.

We name here one of the young and vigorous representatives of the agricultural class of Hancock county, who is making for himself a reputation as a scientific farmer. He resides in Washington township, where he operates a farm of seventy-five acres. His birth occurred in Seneca county, Ohio, May 29, 1874, the name of his father being John F. Fruth, and his mother's maiden name, Marie Peter. The former was born in Germany, May 21, 1853, while the latter is a native of Seneca county, Ohio. In 1854, John F. Fruth came to this country with his parents, who located in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, and remained there about three years. In 1858 he located with his parents in Seneca county, Ohio, where he was reared and educated, and

where he continues to reside. He and his son purchased one hundred acres in Washington township, Hancock county, which they now own. John F. Fruth, the father is a worthy and practical farmer, a member of the United Brethren church, and a citizen of whom the county may well be proud. His family include three children, namely: Jacob; Willie C.; and Kate A.

Jacob Fruth, who is the immediate subject of this paragraph, was reared for the most part in Seneca county, in the schools of which he received his elementary education, it being of a character to fit him for the duties of life. March 29, 1900, occurred his marriage, the lady being the accomplished daughter of Gottlieb and Lydia Mertz, her name being the same as that of her mother. The union has been blessed with a bright little boy, Ross R., who was born March 23, 1901. Mrs. Furth was born at Fostoria, Ohio, September 12, 1880. Her people are of German descent. Both husband and wife are acceptable members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they are active workers. They combine many fine social qualities and are highly esteemed by all.

DR. PERRY O. GUISE.

Dr. Perry O. Guise is the son of one of the old settlers of Hancock county, his father, Jessy Guise, having settled in Findlay in the year 1834, coming overland in a one-horse wagon with his sister from Adams county, Pennsylvania, where he was born in the year 1818. He was a contractor, and in the building of a city in what was then an undeveloped country, he found plenty of occupation, and passed a useful and industrious life, gaining financial success, and the honor and esteem of the entire community. He died at Findlay in 1885. Jessy Guise's father was born in Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century, and died there in the nineteenth century.

Dr. Perry O. Guise was born in Findlay, Ohio, in 1851, and after finishing his education in the schools of that place entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, Maryland, where he graduated in 1882, and immediately thereafter returned to Findlay, where he entered in the practice of his profession, and still continues. Dr. Guise was married September 5, 1883, to Caroline H. Hay, daughter of Dr. Carmel Hay, who was a successful practitioner in Charlestown, Indiana, and lived about three-fourths of a century, respected and honored by all who knew him. His wife was a native of Virginia. Dr. and Mrs. Guise have two children, as follows: Helen L., born July 22, 1884; Cedric H., born July 25, 1890. He has an ideal home, and a large circle of friends, and is a leader in professional, po-

litical and church circles. He belongs to the Northwestern Medical Society, is a member of the Presbyterian church, and an active and zealous Republican, working for the best interests of his party. The people of Findlay have shown their confidence in him by electing him to various offices. He has been township clerk and township treasurer of Findlay township, holding each office for two terms, and filling them acceptably and successfully.

He is loyal to his city and county, and is recognized as one of the prominent and influential citizens of Findlay, devoted to his work, helping suffering humanity, and eminent in his profession.

MRS. SARAH A. STROTHER.

Only those lives are worthy of record that have been potential factors in the public progress in promoting the general welfare or advancing the educational or moral interests of the community. Among the honored citizens of Hancock county none are more deserving of mention in this volume than the lady whose name introduces this sketch, for much of her life has been devoted to the uplifting of her fellow men.

Mrs. Strother was born at Gerrardstown, Berkeley county, in what is now West Virginia, May 26, 1819, and is a daughter of Joshua and Eleanor (Chenoweth) Baldwin, who were also natives of that county. Her paternal grandparents, William and Jane (Hedges) Baldwin, were both natives of England and were the parents of the following children, namely: Jonah, Joseph, Joshua, Jane, Rebecca and Mary. William Baldwin was twice married, his first wife being Mary Woods, of England, by whom he had five children: John, William, Benjamin, Mary and Rebecca. Mrs. Strother's maternal grandfather, Absalom Chenoweth, was born in Wales of Welsh parentage.

In the county of his nativity Joshua Baldwin was reared and in early life learned the tanner's trade. When a young man of about twenty-eight years he came to Ohio and entered a section of land on Buck creek, in Champaign county. He then returned to West Virginia and married Eleanor Chenoweth, whom he brought as a bride to Ohio. To the improvement and cultivation of his land he devoted his earnings. He was for a short time in the war of 1812, at the time of Hull's surrender, afterward returning to West Virginia, having exchanged his place in Ohio for one that his brother Joseph owned in the former state, where he continued to make his home until 1828, when he again came to Ohio and this time located at Zanesville, Muskingum county, for the purpose of educating his children. In

October, 1836, he removed by teams to Hancock county and took up his residence in Findlay, when the city contained but a few inhabitants, among them being Wilson Vance, a brother of Governor Vance. Here Mr. Baldwin engaged in the drug business with his son, Dr. W. H. Baldwin, for a short time and then lived retired until called to his rest at the age of seventy-six years. He was a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church and much of his life was devoted to the work of the ministry. Upright and honorable in all the relations of life, he commanded the respect and confidence of those with whom he came in contact and left behind him an honorable record, well worthy of perpetuation. In his family were the following children: William H.; Amy Jane, wife of Charles W. O'Neal, a prominent attorney; Absalom C.; Sarah A ; Eleanor, wife of A. H. Hyatt, a leading merchant of Findlay; Malinda, who first married Joseph Vance, a nephew of Governor Joseph Vance, and for her second husband married Henry Porch, who was one of the first to utilize natural gas in the county; and Henry and Eliza, who both died in childhood. All of the family are now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Strother. She was educated in the schools of Zanesville and was about seventeen years of age when she accompanied her parents on their removal to Findlay. Here she was first married in 1837 to Arnold F. Merriam, a cousin of Stephen A. Douglas. He was educated at Brandon, Vermont, and became one of the prominent attorneys of Findlay in early days. By this union there were born three children: Sarah Jane, wife of John Schell; Emily C., widow of John C. Kemble; and William D., who died at the age of nine years.

About seven years after the death of her first husband Mrs. Strother married Judge R. L. Strother, who was born in Hardy county, West Virginia, and came to Hancock county about 1828, being one of the prominent early settlers of this locality. At one time he owned some of the land on which the city of Findlay now stands and he bore a very active and influential part in public affairs, serving as district judge for some years. He died in 1874 and in his death the community realized that it had lost one of its most valued citizens. By her second marriage Mrs. Strother has three daughters, Mrs. Sidney Shuck, Mrs. Eva A. Strickler and Eleanor Cheneweth, who died at three years of age.

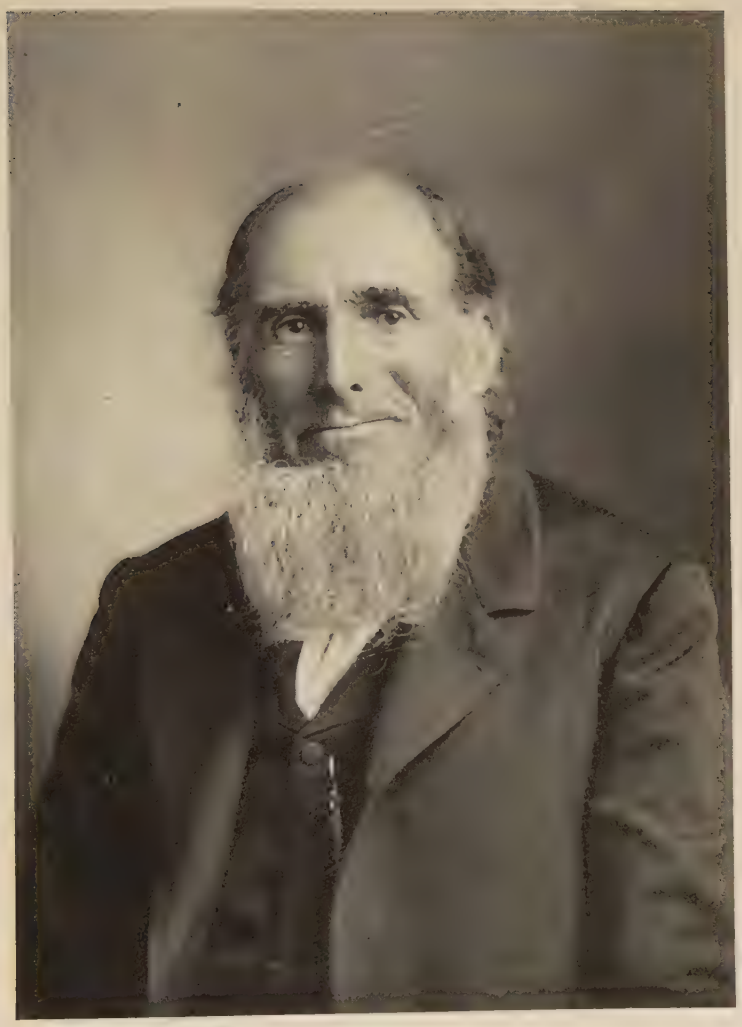
In 1831 Mrs. Strother joined the First Methodist Episcopal church of Zanesville, and has since taken a very active part in the work of that denomination, serving as president of the Home Missionary Society. Temperance work, however, has also claimed much of her attention and she became a charter member of the first Good Templar organization founded in

Findlay, and also a charter member of the Daughters of Temperance. She took the pledge when only eighteen years of age and has never broken it. To-day she is president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, No. 1. She led out a band of crusaders in Findlay and assisted in the organization of the State Union at Springfield and organized the societies in Hancock county under the name of the Temperance Alliance. She has attended most of the state conventions of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union during the existence of that great organization, and in 1902 was the oldest member to make a report at the convention in Toledo. She has filled all the offices in the society and is called the mother of the movement in Findlay. The state organization sent her as a delegate to the World's Union in London, England. She is well known all over the country as one of its most active and earnest temperance workers and a woman whose life has been devoted to those enterprises calculated to promote the moral and social welfare of the community. During the entire Civil war, with the exception of three months, she was president of the Soldiers' Aid Society and she is now a member of the Woman's Relief Corps at Findlay, of which she was the first chaplain. Her life has been a most exemplary one and she has ever supported those movements calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while her own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

ISAAC THOMPSON.

Many years have passed since this gentleman came to Hancock county, and he is therefore numbered among her honored pioneers as well as leading citizens. He has been actively and prominently identified with the upbuilding and progress of Orange township, and his name is inseparably connected with many events and enterprises which have contributed to the development of his community. A native son of the Buckeye state, his birth occurred in Marlborough township, Stark county, Ohio, on the 25th of February, 1828. His father, David Thompson, was a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, and when about ten years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal to Columbiana county, Ohio, the family locating near Fairfield, where he was taught the work of the farm in all its departments. The latter's father, Isaac Thompson, was also a native of the Old Dominion state, but in an early day he located in Columbiana county, and he lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and six years. He was of Quaker origin.

The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Eliza McCoy, and her birth occurred near New Lisbon, Columbiana county, Ohio, where she was



Isaac Thompson

reared to mature years. In the county of her nativity she gave her hand in marriage to David Thompson, and this young couple immediately removed to Stark county, this state, taking up their abode on a farm in the dense woods. The husband immediately entered eighty acres of land, which in time he cleared and improved, but nine years later he sold that place and came to Hancock county, where he located in section 20, Orange township, being the second person to secure land in this locality. Again he was obliged to undertake the arduous task of clearing and developing land, but as the years went by he succeeded in placing his fields in an excellent state of cultivation, and on this valuable homestead he spent the remainder of his life, entering into eternal rest in 1854, at the age of fifty-six years. Both he and his wife were members of the Disciples church, and the latter was called to her final rest when she had reached the fifty-sixth milestone on the journey of life, in 1861. Unto this worthy pioneer couple were born ten children, three daughters and seven sons, and all grew to years of maturity, but only two of the number are now living, the brother being S. P. Thompson, who is serving as circuit judge of Jasper and Newton counties, Indiana.

Isaac Thompson, the other surviving member of this once large family, was the second child and eldest son in order of birth. He was but five years of age when he was brought by his parents to Hancock county. The school which he attended was a primitive log structure, and he had reached his fifteenth year ere he was privileged to enjoy the advantages to be secured even in this rude structure, while his school life covered a period of only fifteen months. However, he has greatly added to this meager training by keeping himself in constant touch with the movements of the outside world and by reading and observation, and is now a well informed man. Early in life he assisted his father in clearing and improving the homestead farm, and in addition to this work and improving a farm for himself, later he also taught school during the winter months for about six years. After his marriage he located on the farm which still continues to be his home, and all the accessories and improvements on this now valuable estate stand as monuments to his thrift and business ability. At one time he was the owner of two hundred and eighty acres, but as his children have started in life for themselves he has given to them portions of his land until he has now only one hundred and twenty acres. Eight oil wells have been drilled on his farm, seven of which have been good producers and they now yield about forty-eight barrels a month. For a period of six years Mr. Thompson served as a justice of the peace, for thirteen years was township clerk, was township treasurer for about fourteen years, for a similar period served as supervisor, was also a ditch super-

visor, and for the past eighteen years has been a notary public. He has also settled about fifty estates, and has acted as guardian for five persons. His life has been a busy and useful one, and in the discharge of both his public and private duties he has won the respect and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact.

The marriage of Mr. Thompson was celebrated on the 24th of October, 1849, when Miss Louisa McKinley became his wife. She is a relative of our martyred president, William McKinley, and is of Irish descent, her grandparents having emigrated from the Green Isle of Erin to the United States. Her death occurred on the 31st of December, 1888, after becoming the mother of six children, concerning whom the following domestic record is furnished: Leticia E. married Bateman Zoll and is now deceased; Mary J. is the wife of Jesse T. Crawford, and they have one son, Ray D.; David F. married Clara E. Buckley and they have two children living, Bertha and Jesse; Jay Allen married Mary Ellen Hall, and they have two children living, Lulu May and Cecil D.; Willie H. is single; Chester E. married Mary Maude George and they have one son, Otho G.

Mr. Thompson's religious affiliations are with the Christian church, of which he has long been a valued member. Uniformly respected and venerated amid a large circle of friends, he is now spending the evening of life quietly at his pleasant home in Orange township.

W. M. METZLER, M. D.

One of the eminent followers of Æsculapius, the ancient, and an ornament to that time-honored and most beneficent profession which can occupy the field of human endeavor, is Dr. W. M. Metzler, a young but very successful practitioner of Vanlue, Hancock county, Ohio. His father, Henry H., was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and he married Caroline A. Reed, who was born in Hancock county, and belonged to a family long identified with the history of the county. The Metzlers came into this county in 1850 and located in Liberty township. Henry H. was clerk of the township and also its treasurer. For several years he was in the grocery business at Findlay and was a clerk for Lemuel McMannis for three years; he was in business for himself for eleven years and bore an excellent reputation in all the lines of his endeavor. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted, in 1861, becoming a member of Company F, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry; he was taken prisoner at the battle of Chickamauga and was exchanged in 1864. He died April 30, 1892, and his wife passed away August 13, 1899. They

were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living and filling honorable places in the various walks of life.

The subject of this biography had his birth in Liberty township, Hancock county, September 21, 1866, and he was reared and educated there, graduating in the Findlay high school. He was then employed for some time in the railway mail service, but having determined to take up the profession of medicine he entered the Starling Medical College and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1895. The following year he began the practice of his calling in Vanlue and has since gained a very profitable patronage; his methods of practice being based upon the "Regular" school of medicine. In the line of his profession he is a member of the Hancock county Medical Society, and fraternally belongs to the Knights of Pythias.

In the month of February, 1902, Dr. Metzler was married to Miss Lola Cross, who was born in Amanda township in 1877, the daughter of Henry and Octavia Cross. Henry Cross, now deceased, was one of the well known and respected men of Amanda township, whose well tilled farm of sixty acres is situated a short distance west of Vanlue. There his birth occurred on the 4th of February, 1841; his parents were Charles and Esther (Smaltz) Cross, the former a native of Maryland and the latter born in Fairfield county, Ohio; the family came to this county in 1839 and settled on the property which now belongs to Mrs. Octavia Cross. Henry Cross was a faithful member of the United Brethren church and in its belief he died, April 23, 1888. His marriage to Octavia, the daughter of William and Octavia Brown, occurred May 11, 1865; she was a native of Big Lick township, her natal day being February 19, 1842. Of this marriage there were eight children and five of them are yet living: Effie R., Lola A., Bertha I., Forest G., and Morris E.

CHARLES J. KRAUSS.

This prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Hancock county resides just outside the city limits of the city of Findlay, on the Blanchard road, in Marion township, on a farm containing one hundred and ninety-five acres of valuable land, and upon which is situated one flowing gas well, which he sunk himself, and which furnishes gas for his own consumption. Mr. Krauss was born in Baden, Germany, on the 5th of May, 1827. His parents were George A. and Mary E. (Keller) Krauss, the former a manufacturer of soap and candles at Baden, and still living. The subject of this sketch upon attaining his majority emigrated to this country and located in Buffalo, New York, the year being 1848, where he remained but a few

months, and during which time he was employed in a tannery. The same year he removed to Putnam county, Ohio, where he gave his attention to learning the wagon-maker's trade. In 1852, however, he resolved to join the ranks of the farming class, and purchasing a farm of fifty-four acres, he began its cultivation. In 1858 he removed to his present location, where he purchased one hundred and eighteen acres of land, and afterwards added seventy-seven more. Besides this extensive farm he invested in another parcel of land, for which he paid $2,600, and in five years it had increased in value so as to bring the sum of $14,400. The success of Mr. Krauss is largely due to the fact that he is a man of good judgment and shrewd foresight. In 1851 he married Nancy Krebs, and to this lady were born two children, Mary E. and William T. Both the children and their mother are now deceased, the mother dying in 1854. In 1856, for his second wife, Mr. Krauss chose Mrs. Glauner, a widow whose name before her first marriage was Annie Snyder. This marriage resulted in four children, the mother of whom died in 1881. She was a woman of most estimable disposition and many noble traits of character. William J., one of the sons, married Miss Libbie Aultman, of Marion township, and now resides in the county, engaged in farming. Mr. Krauss takes great pride in his surroundings. In 1889 he built upon his farm the present beautiful and commodious house, furnishing it with all the modern conveniences. He has been honored with the various township offices in the gift of his people. Fraternally he is a worthy member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which organization he is a charter member of Golden Rule Encampment. Mr. Krauss has retired from the cares and worries of an active business life, and is enjoying the comforts which should come as the cap sheaf of a life of worthy industry.

JOHN M. BARR.

As a citizen and substantial business man of Findlay no one stands higher in the community than Mr. Barr, president of the Citizens' Gas Light & Coke Company. He has been closely identified with the business interests of the city and has been an important factor in the advancement of its material and industrial progress, giving liberally of his time, means and thought to insure the prosperity of the place, and being also a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of Hancock county, of which he is a native son.

Mr. Barr was born in Findlay, on the 27th of June, 1849, the son of James H. and Mary (Shaw) Barr, the former of whom was born in Fairfield

county, Ohio, becoming one of the early settlers of Hancock county, where he was honored for his sterling character and his marked ability. He located in Findlay and had the distinction of being the first judge of probate elected in the county, serving three terms in this office and also having been incumbent of the position of county auditor in the early days. He was a man of profound judgment and inflexible integrity, was a prominent and influential citizen and impressed himself strongly on the community where he passed so many years of his life, being summoned into eternal rest on the 1st of September, 1862, at the age of fifty years. His wife, who was likewise born in Fairfield county, passed away July 20, 1882, at the age of fifty-seven years. Judge Barr was a son of John Barr, who was born in Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, in the early pioneer epoch, and there passed the residue of his life.

John M. Barr, the immediate subject of this sketch, was reared and educated in his native city, and when seventeen years of age, in 1866, he went to New York city and took a position as a house salesman in a wholesale hat establishment, being thus employed for a decade. In 1876 he returned to Findlay, where he was engaged in various business enterprises until 1881, when he became associated with his father-in-law, Hiram J. Starr, in the grain and live stock business, in Wyandot county, thus continuing operations for about five years and maintaining his home in Carey. In 1887 he returned to Findlay and became associated with others, under the firm name of Waltz, Barr & Company, in the leasing of the Lake Erie & Western elevators. The partnership was dissolved at the exiration of three years and Mr. Barr thereafter retained the elevators and carried on an individual grain business until the plant was destroyed by fire. He then accepted the position of manager of the Findlay Electric Light Company, retaining this incumbency for two years and resigning the same to enter upon his able administration as postmaster of Findlay, during Cleveland's second term. He did much to improve the service and facilities of the local postoffice business and his regime continued for four and one-half years. He then associated himself with W. V. Coons, now of Cleveland, in purchasing from the city the local gas plant, and he was made president of the company. He has since been incumbent of this executive office and his wise business policy has done much to further the success of the enterprise. He has ever shown a lively interest in all that concerns the general welfare and the legitimate advancement of the community, and his aid and influence have been invariably given to worthy enterprises for the public good. Mr. Barr is a stalwart Democrat in his political

proclivities, and he has served as a member of the city council and also of the library board.

On the 30th of August, 1877, at Carey, Ohio, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Barr to Miss Laura P. Starr, the daughter of Hiram J. Starr. The family is prominent in the social life of the city, and the attractive home, at 200 West Front street, is a center of refined hospitality.

WILLIAM M. NEWHOUSE.

Well known in Hancock county, William M. Newhouse is a worthy representative of the farming interests and a man whose connection with the progress and development of Hancock county has been disinterested and honorable in the extreme. At this period of writing he is prosperous farmer, residing in Washington township, owning and operating a valuable farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres. The birth of Mr. Newhouse occurred in Carroll county, Ohio, April 14, 1849. His father was James Newhouse; his mother was Susana S. May. He grew to manhood in his native county, engaged in the occupations and pleasures that come to the average country boy, receiving an indifferent education in the common schools of that time. Upon arriving at maturity he adopted farming as his life work, which he has continued to follow to the present time. With the exception of five years he has always worked on the same farm, that which his father owned before him. He is reputed to be one of the very best farmers in Washington township, taking the greatest pride in adopting new methods in the culture of his lands, and keeping the improvements on his farm in the best of order. Mr. Newhouse was the prime mover in the organization of what is known as the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Hancock county, of which organization he was president for a period of six years. December 19, 1876, he was united in marriage to Mary, daughter of Henry and Katherine Brown, and born in Washington township, January 7, 1851. She is the mother of an interesting family, as follows: Jennie M., born August 30, 1877; Ada D., born March 8, 1880; Clara M., born March 30, 1884; and Riley E., December 5, 1885. Mrs. Newhouse is a member of one of the pioneer families of the county, and one which has been very prominently connected with its development. William M. Newhouse's father is a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born October 31, 1822. His wife, Susana May, claims nativity in the Keystone state, where she was born July 18, 1823. They came to Hancock county in the fall of 1850, and located in Washington township, where they bought eighty acres which had been somewhat improved. To this tract they

soon added another of forty acres, the whole of which James continued to farm during his lifetime. He was a man thoroughly versed in the science of farming in his day, a fact which accounts for the proficiency of his son in the same line. In 1872 James Newhouse caused to be built a commodious brick house on the farm, which is one of the most beautiful and practical modern residences in the county. Politically he voted with the Republican party. He reared a family of five children, two of whom are now living; the other member of the family beside our subject being a brother, Thomas Newhouse, elsewhere mentioned in this volume.

Mr. Newhouse has by untiring industry and sound judgment won a merited success in all his undertakings, and is in all respects worthy the high regard in which he is held by his fellow men. He has made many improvements on his place in the last four or five years, and now has one of the model farms of the county.

REV. A. C. SIDDALL.

One of the most highly regarded citizens of Van Buren, Ohio, is Rev. A. C. Siddall, who not only has gained the confidence of his own religious body, but has won a position of esteem in this community, where his scholarly attainments are only equalled by his usefulness as a Christian minister.

The birth of Mr. Siddall was on July 3, 1868, in Amanda township, Hancock county, Ohio, and he is a son of John C. and Phidema (Litzenberger) Siddall, the former of whom was born on November 3, 1844, in Columbiana county, Ohio, and the latter in 1846, in Hancock county, Ohio. John C. Siddall is a successful and practical farmer, who owns an estate of one hundred and sixty-seven acres of vauable land in Amanda township. His parents were Joshua and Mary A. Siddall, who, in 1848, moved from Columbiana county to Hancock county. The family has long been prominent in the United Brethren church.

Rev. Mr. Siddall was reared and educated in the common schools of his native township, and after finishing the common school course, spent four years in teaching in Hancock county and then entered Heidelberg University, graduating with honor in 1897. In 1890 he entered the Sandusky conference and ministry of the United Brethren church, and was assigned to the charge at Nevada, Ohio, where he remained for one year, serving for the same length of time the church at Kansas, Ohio, and this was followed by a service of three years at Bloomville, Ohio. From Bloomville he went to Bascom, Ohio, and three years later was transferred to Van Buren, where he is most

acceptably serving his third year. This church was organized in 1866, and was built in 1868. Under his charge it has been strengthened until its membership reaches almost two hundred, with a flourishing Sunday-school of two hundred and sixty-four members. This is one of the encouraging charges in the conference and the church property here is valued at six thousand dollars. Rev. Mr. Siddall occupies the position of statistical secretary of the Sandusky conference.

In 1890 Rev. Mr. Siddall was united in marriage with Miss Rose L. Shuck, who is a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Shuck and who was born on March 10, 1870, in Amanda township. To this union there were four children: Judson C., born May 18, 1892; Ruth M., born August 21, 1893; Esther C., born June 16, 1895; and Alcenas C., born June 4, 1897.

As a pulpit orator, Rev. Mr. Siddall is a speaker of great power, and an expounder of clearness. His church in him has a preacher of great value, one who does not confine his Christian labors to his own denomination, but extends his influence through the community. His pleasant personality wins many to his cause, while his exemplary life sets an example which works for the good of others.

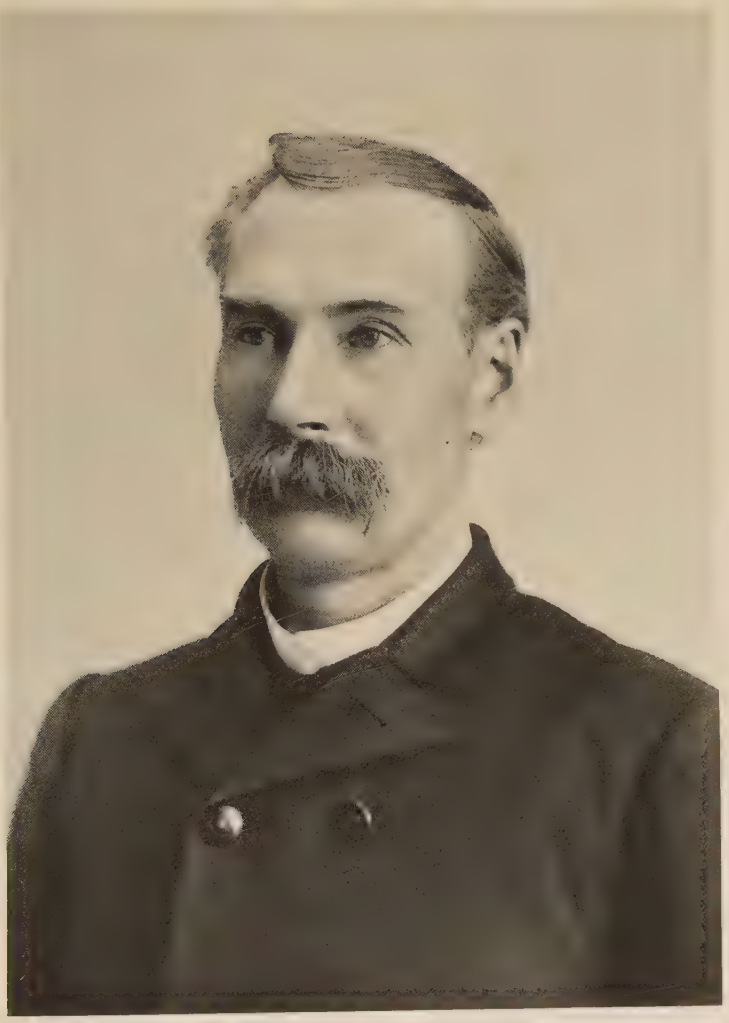
ABNER L. DAVIS.

Abner L. Davis was born on a farm four miles east of Findlay, August 20, 1849. His remote ancestors emigrated from Wales to Virginia in the year 1640. His immediate ancestor, William Davis, moved from Cumberland, Maryland, to Hancock county, Ohio, in the spring of 1834.

C. W. BROOKS.

This well known farmer and honored citizen of Pleasant township has for many years been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Hancock county, and his many years of earnest toil have been rewarded by a desirable competence. He is a native son of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Jefferson county, on the 3d of March, 1838, and he is a son of Elisha and Margaret (Woods) Brooks, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. The father, who was of English descent, followed the trade of shoemaking in early life, but after coming to Hancock county in 1845, he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he farmed during the remainder of his life, passing to his final rest in 1855. The mother was of Irish ancestry. In their family were eleven children, nine of whom grew to years of maturity.

Elizabeth Jane Brooks.



Calvin W. Brooks

C. W. Brooks, the youngest in order of birth of the eleven children, was reared to mature years on the parental farm, and in the common schools of the neighborhood he received his early educational training. Choosing as a life work the occupation to which he had been reared, he early engaged in agricultural pursuits and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fertile and well improved land. In 1862 Mr. Brooks answered the call for soldiers to aid in crushing out the rebellion in the south, becoming a member of Company G, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, of which he was elected captain, but by a general order the regiment was disbanded and the men assigned to other regiments. He served his full term of three years, and at the battle of Stone river he received a bullet wound directly over the heart, his life being saved only by a bag of salt which he was carrying in a side pocket, which so reduced the force of the ball that it shattered only one rib. After his return from hostilities Mr. Brooks again took up the quiet pursuits of the farm, and has since given his attention to the tilling of the soil, his efforts in that direction being attended with a high and well merited degree of success.

In the year 1861 Mr. Brooks was united in marriage to Sarah A., daughter of Cyrus and Betsey Hart, and a descendant of English and Irish ancestry. Unto this union were born the following children: Ellsworth, who married Rena Mackey; Norton, who married Ida Robinson; Mack W., who married Elizabeth Helfrich; Matilda, deceased; Eli, who married Clara Conine; Jennie, the wife of F. Helfer; and Lizzie, the wife of John Sheeter. The wife and mother was called into eternal rest in 1880, and on the 27th of June, 1888, Mr. Brooks married Elizabeth J. King, who was born in Portage township, Hancock county, in 1844, a daughter of William and Elizabeth King. The father was a man of great business ability, and was a large stock dealer and land owner, owning and operating two hundred acres of fine land. He became a resident of Hancock county as early as 1842, and was long one of its valued and influential citizens. He was many times the choice of his fellow townsmen for positions of honor and trust, and among the many public offices which he was called upon to fill was that of justice of the peace. His death occurded on the 6th of July, 1898, but his widow is still living. By his second marriage Mr. Brooks has become the father of one son, Wilbur K., who was born May 24, 1889. In political matters our subject gives support to the Republican party, and he, too, has been called upon to serve in various public capacities, having for four years been the efficient trustee of Pleasant township, held the office of treasurer for a similar period. On account of two townships being thrown out he was de-

feated for county commissioner in 1880 but was elected to that office in 1888 by a large majority, having been nominated in the convention on the first ballot. In 1900 Mr. Brooks was appointed superintendent of the Hancock County Infirmary and has made the most able superintendent the poor farm has ever had. Mrs. Brooks, the matron of the infirmary, is a woman thoroughly fitted in every way for the position she occupies. She was a leading and popular teacher in this county for twenty-five years prior to her marriage. The cause of education has also found in Mr. Brooks a warm friend, and for eight years he served as a member of the school board. In 1883 he was elected vice president of the Hancock County Agricultural Association, thus serving until 1885, when he was elected general manager. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; was the first chancellor commander of McComb Lodge, No. 179, K. of P., of which he was also deputy grand chancellor; and was formerly a member of John Howard Post, No. 154, G. A. R., in which he served as quartermaster and commander, but is now member of Stoker Post, of Findlay. Mr. Brooks is an honored and highly esteemed member of his community, and in the county which has so long been his home he has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

WILLIAM STEPHENSON.

William Stephenson, deceased, was for many years an honored and highly esteemed citizen of Hancock county, his time and energies being principally devoted to agricultural pursuits. A native of Ohio, he was born in Knox county, August 7, 1823, his parents being John and Anna (Lee) Stephenson. The father was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, but as early as 1814 came to Ohio and settled in Knox county, where he was numbered among the pioneers and prominent farmers. His wife was a native of Ireland but was only three years of age when brought by her parents to the new world. She died at the age of sixty-three years and he was seventy-four years of age at the time of his death. In their family were ten children, of whom nine reached maturity.

In this family William Stephenson was eighth in order of birth. He was reared and educated in the county of his nativity, attending the common schools near his boyhood home, and aiding in the labors of the farm when not in school. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which important event of his life was celebrated October 18, 1849, Miss Mary Anderson becoming his wife. Six children blessed this union, namely: Viola, now the

wife of Frank Bigelow; Laura, wife of S. B. Sneath, of Tiffin, Ohio; Marian; Anderson L., a resident of Findlay; Adda May, who died at the age of fifteen years; and William E., a resident of Findlay.

Mrs. Stephenson was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1824, and comes of good old Revolutionary stock. Her ancestors were of Scotch-Irish origin and were prominent early settlers of the Keystone state. The first of the family to come to America was James Anderson, who was born in Ireland. His son, Patrick Anderson, whose birth occurred in Chester county, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1719, served with distinction as a colonel in Washington's army during the war for independence, and was later one of the organizers of the Order of Cincinnati. His son, James Anderson, also fought for the freedom of the colonies in the Revolutionary war. The latter was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and afterward became a resident of Washington county, that state. This worthy old soldier was the grandfather of Mrs. Stephenson. Her father, William Anderson, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1797, and was there reared and married, the lady of his choice being Elizabeth McKibben, a native of the same county and a daughter of Richard and Sarah (Robinson) McKibben. Her parents were also Pennsylvanians by birth. On coming to Ohio in 1828, William Anderson located on a farm in Licking county, where he made his home until called to his final rest on the 5th of October, 1839, when forty-two years of age. Although he followed farming throughout the greater part of his life, he was also a civil engineer and held the office of county surveyor for some years. He took a very active and prominent part in public affairs and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Nine of his ten children reached years of maturity, Mrs. Stephenson being the third child and second daughter.

For three years after his marriage Mr. Stephenson continued to reside in Knox county, but in 1853 came to Hancock county and for five years made his home in Blanchard township, at the end of which time he removed to the place where his widow is now living, at 2610 North Main street, Findlay. Throughout his active business life he successfully engaged in farming and stock dealing and became the owner of two fine farms, one of one hundred and sixty acres and the other of eighty acres, both in the oil belt. In 1888 he erected the commodious and pleasant residence now occupied by Mrs. Stephenson, and there he spent his last days surrounded by all the comforts which make life worth the living. He died September 18, 1897, honored and respected by all who knew him on account of his sterling worth and many excellencies of character. He was an

active and consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics identified with the Democracy. His course in life was ever such as to commend him to the confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact and he left many friends to mourn his loss besides his immediate family.

JASPER T. RICKETTS.

This is one of those quiet, unassuming men who make no loud pretentions but who if their past lives be inquired into will be found to have done their duty at every conjuncture to themselves, their neighbors and their country. Such an inquiry would disclose that during the dark days of the Civil war Mr. Ricketts was well to the front and fighting among the bravest of the brave for the preservation of the Union. Further inquiry would prove that after his return from the army he was just as faithful in peace as he had been in war, making a good church member, a good public official, a good neighbor and a good farmer. It is men of this type, pursuing "The even tenor of their way" without ostentation, but always on hand at the right time and counting one in every emergency, that make every community and furnish that indispensable element known as the "honest yeomanry of the land." Mr. Ricketts comes of pioneer ancestry, and his family has been identified with Hancock county history for more than seventy years.

Rezin Ricketts, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in the early part of the nineteenth century, was married in Hancock county, to Mercy Hess, of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and located in 1832 on eighty acres of wild land in what is now known as Marion township. As these were rough times the new arrivals shared with others all the privations incident to the period. There was much hard work, but also little play, a general deprivation of what are called the "comforts of civilization," but for these the pioneers managed to find substitutes and altogether their lot was not wholly one of hardship. Rezin Ricketts did his full share toward developing the new country and became prominent in local affairs, serving as township treasurer several terms and as justice of the peace for twenty-one years. He also acquired a reasonable measure of material prosperity and owned one hundred and sixty acres of land at the time of his death, in 1886. By his wife, Mercy (Hess) Ricketts, who died in 1872, he had three children: Jasper T., Mary and Martha.

As will be observed Jasper T. Ricketts is the eldest of the family, and his birth occurred in Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, May 1, 1839.

He followed the usual routine of farmer boys by attending school in winter and working on the farm "between times," and was so engaged at the time the sullen mutterings on the political horizon foreboded the coming of the war storm. When it broke in all its fury Jasper T. Ricketts was not one of those to shrink back, but took his full share of responsibility by enlisting in Company H, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served bravely until the close of hostilities. Mr. Ricketts's regiment was assigned to the army of the Tennessee, and he took part with it in all of its battles and skirmishes while present for duty. He was wounded at the battle of Corinth and in the fight at Kennesaw Mountain was struck in the right hip, but in the whole was fortunate in his escapes, considering the many and great dangers he had to face. When honorably discharged, August 14, 1865, he held the rank of orderly sergeant of his company, and was considered one of the dutiful and reliable soldiers of the command.

It was during a leave of absence from the front, on March 3, 1864, that Mr. Ricketts was married to Barbara A., daughter of Jacob and Judy Bly, and born in Marion township in 1842. The children of this union were eight in number, of whom six are living and two are dead, to-wit: William T., deceased; Harvey J.; Lewis R.; John B.; Logan; Alta M., deceased; Sarah M.; and Bertha. Mr. Ricketts is a member of the United Brethren church, has served his township as treasurer and trustee and belongs to Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He has owned and lived upon his present farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres in Amanda township since 1873, has made a number of needed improvements and is generally regarded as a practical, painstaking and progressive farmer.

ADAM WOLF.

The Teutonic race has been an important element in framing our national commonwealth; its qualities and characteristics have been infused with those of other races in the development of a strictly American type and the United States willingly acknowledges its indebtedness to the German people for certain admirable qualities which are found among the representatives of the fatherland and their descendants.

The above worthy representative of the Teutonic race is a wealthy and practical farmer of Washington township, where he resides on a beautiful two hundred acre tract, which is well tilled and well kept. As stated he is a native of Germany, where he was born April 17, 1836. When he arrived at maturity he left home, and in 1858 arrived in America, coming immediately

to Seneca county, Ohio. Here he remained until 1865, when he removed to Wood county, where he was one of the leading agriculturists for a period of three years, cultivating an eighty acre tract. In 1868 he sold this farm and coming to Hancock county located on his present place. It is noted that this property was once owned by Abraham Deel, whose large log house remains to-day as a trophy of the early pioneer life in Hancock county. Mr. Wolf has since coming into possession of the property added many modern improvements, having built his present large and commodious residence in 1872. In the year 1865 he was joined in marriage to Mary Dippelhoper, a lady also of German descent and lineage, she having been born in Germany in 1844. To this marriage there have been born a family of eight children, five of whom are living: John, born in 1867; Jessie, 1871; Lottie, 1873; Emma, 1878; Andrew, 1881.

Information concerning the family history of the Wolfs is rather scant. It is known that they were prominent members of society in the German empire for a long period of years. Adam Wolf's father was Peter Wolf, his mother's maiden name having been Maria Gilbrick. Both of his parents lived out their lives in Germany, where the father died in 1884 and the mother in 1863.

In the respect that is accorded the men who have fought their way to success through unfavorable environments, we find an unconscious recogniton of the intrinsic worth of a character which cannot only endure so rough a test, but can also gain new strength through the discipline. It can be said of Adam Wolf that he is a self-made man in all which that hackneyed phrase means. He has always been an exceedingly hard worker, and the effort which he has put forth, coupled with a good head for business, has made him one of the leading men of his section.

S. N. E. PRIDDY.

Though a resident of Findlay only twelve years the above named gentleman is a native of Ohio, and has spent all his life within the confines of this state. He is a busy man and a useful one, as the various enterprises which have occupied his attention were such as benefit the community while bringing profit to the proprietor. Furnishing railroad supplies, milling and mining have been Mr. Priddy's pursuits, and in these during an active career he has met with the success that usually rewards constant labor and persistent perseverance. He comes of an old family long settled in Greenbrier county, Virginia, whence have gone forth so many pioneers for the new territories of

the west as they were opened up for settlement. John Priddy was an important man in that part of the Old Dominion during the last half of the eighteenth century. He was born in Greenbrier county in 1754, and in early manhood displayed his patriotism by enlisting in the Revolutionary army, in which he rose to the rank of quartermaster. After the establishment of independence he joined the tide of western emigration and established himself in Fayette county, Ohio, as early as 1808. His son, William Priddy, was born in Greenbrier county, Virginia, in 1798, and also became a pioneer in Ohio, first of Fayette and later of Van Wert county, where he died in 1852. Among his children was Thomas D. Priddy, whose birth occurred in Fayette county, Ohio, August 15, 1820, and who came to Van Wert county with his father in 1835. He farmed there many years and lived to an advanced age, his death occurring in 1897.

S. N. E. Priddy, son of the last mentioned, was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, February 21, 1844, and remained at home until he had reached the twenty-seventh year of his age. As he grew up he assisted his father in work on the farm and meantime obtained the usual school education. This was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war, in which Mr. Priddy went as a boy and made an excellent record as a loyal and patriotic soldier. He enlisted at Mansfield, September 11, 1861, as a private in Company H, Fifteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and remained with his command until February, 1862, when he was discharged for disability. In November, 1863, he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment and remained until the command was mustered out in the fall of 1865. Mr. Priddy saw much hard service in the shape of marching, skirmishing and fighting, through all of which he acquitted himself so well as to obtain the entire approval of his commanding officers. He took part in the severe and protracted campaigns from Dalton to Atlanta in the spring and summer of 1864 and fought with his command in many of the engagements that occurred during that memorable march. After Atlanta surrendered Mr. Priddy was with the forces detached to look after the hot-headed Hood on his wild expedition into Tennessee, and fought with his regiment in the bloody battles at Franklin, Jonesboro and Nashville, which last battle practically destroyed Hood's army. In 1871 Mr. Priddy left his father's farm and embarked in business for himself as a purchaser of ties for the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad Company. After spending two years in this employment he bought a saw mill in Van Wert county and the management of this in connection with a grist mill and planing mill, furnished him occupation for the next thirteen years. In 1882 he disposed of the saw mill but operated the

others four years longer and then sold them also with a view to engaging in different employment. In 1887 he embarked in the oil producing business in Allen county, Ohio, and has continued in this enterprise with headquarters at Findlay since his removal there in 1890. He is also interested in zinc and lead mining at Joplin, Missouri, and has met with a fair measure of success in his various enterprises.

During his residence in Middlepoint, Ohio, Mr. Priddy served five years as mayor of that city and was also a member of the city council and school board. During the erection of the normal school building at that place, Mr. Priddy was president of the board of trustees, having that work in charge. In December, 1872, he was married, at Middlepoint, to Elizabeth, daughter of John and Rachel (Coslett) Price, and has three sons and one daughter: John E., attorney at law; Edgar, an oil producer; Edith J., at home; and Vernon, at Amherst College. The family are members of the Methodist church and in politics Mr. Priddy's affiliations are with the Republican party.

CHARLES H. THOMAS.

Since an early epoch in the development of the northern part of Ohio, the family of Charles H. Thomas (now deceased) has been numbered among its citizens. To know the early life of this family, we have but to picture the conditions common in Hancock county six or seven decades ago. Much of the land was wild, awaiting the awakening energy of civilization to transform it into richly cultivated fields. Schools were primitive and the curriculum limited. The now thriving towns and cities were merely hamlets, or had not been founded, and the settlers were deprived of many of the comforts of the older east. But they were people of resolute spirit and with determined purpose, well fitted to the work of making homes in the wilderness. In this work the Thomas family bore its part. This family was one of the first to settle in Marion township, in this county, where they located on a tract of land received from the government. Charles Thomas was the first of the name of whom we have any knowledge. He cleared his farm, which he had received from the government, and at his decease passed it down to his son George. The latter, who married Katherine Paden, was a thrifty and practical farmer, who placed many a solid improvement on the old place. At his death he left the farm to his son Charles H. Thomas, the subject of this review, who was born on the 26th of August, 1853. He, like his ancestors, followed agricultural pursuits and was much esteemed by his fellow citizens. After he became of age he was elected trustee, treasurer and school director

Chas. H. Thomas.

Harriet A Thomas

in Marion township, all of which offices he administered with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. He was a faithful and loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which for many years he was superintendent of the Sunday-school and a leader of the musical department. In November, 1874, he was joined in marriage to Harriet A., the daughter of David and Amanda Walter. The union was blessed with six children: George W., who married Gladys P. Moore, and to whom were born three boys, Charles K., Delbert L., and Glen; the second child, Tishie M., married Calvin L. Moore, an electrician, and she was the mother of one daughter, Lora B.; the third child, David L., married Edith Nusser. The three younger sons were Benj. H., Charles G. and Edward R. After a rather short but eminently useful life Charles H. Thomas died March 29, 1892. His widow, Mrs. Harriet A. Thomas, was born in Hancock county in 1852. She is a lady of much refinement of character and many noble qualities, and is the center of a large circle of friends in her community. The farm upon which she resides contains ninety-six acres, is well tilled and everything about the premises shows the guiding hand of an experienced representative of the farming class. The fifth generation of the Thomas family are now residents on this farm, first settled by Charles Thomas, early in the century.

J. E. HUDSON.

As a man travels on in the journey of life and passes the prime of manhood his strength and energy are somewhat lessened by age, which is an indication that it is intended that his last years shall be at least to some extent a period of rest. Not all past the meridian of life are permitted to put aside business cares, for through the lack of business ability or mismanagement they have not acquired capital sufficient to supply their needs in their declining years. Mr. J. E. Hudson is enjoying a well earned rest. Long connected with the agricultural interests of Hancock county, his careful manangement and a husbanding of his resources have brought his a very desirable competence which now supplies him with all the necessities and many of the luxuries that go to make life worth the living.

Mr. Hudson is now living in the city of Findlay, having retired from his farm in Cass township, where he was born August 8, 1841. His father was Moses Hudson, a native of old Virginia. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Winkler, she being a native of the Buckeye state, Wayne county. Moses Hudson came to maturity in Virginia, and from thence removed to Wayne county, Ohio, where he remained but a short time, coming

on to Hancock county, where he settled in Cass township. Here he purchased eighty acres of timber land, the date being 1837. The carving out of a home in this wild and primitive section of the county at that time occupied him the rest of his life. He was a hard-working, honest, industrious man, who was always proud to remark that he was never in need of the law, having never sued or been sued before the court. He always settled his differences with is neighbors by the principle which has gained such a hold on the economic world of to-day, that of arbitration. If the difficulty could not be settled in this manner he would rather seem to be imposed upon and accept the result rather than carry it into the courts. He was a highly respected member of society and a devout adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of his eight children three of the five survivors are residents of Hancock county, Fannie, J. E. and William, while Lawrence and Lucinda reside outside its boundaries. The father of this family, after a long and useful life, passed to his rest February 13, 1887. He had lived a widower for two decades, his wife Lydia having died at a rather early age in 1847.

J. E. Hudson passed his youth and boyhood on the old homestead, which was the scene of his boyhood labors and pleasures, and during which time he acquired his elementary education in the common schools. The fact that he has passed his entire existence in Cass township makes him a figure of respect among his fellow citizens. His character is beyond reproach, and in the space of thirty-eight years he has succeeded, by honest dealing and industrious thrift, in accumulating a very nice competence. He owns at the present time one of the finest estates in Cass township. It contains one hundred and sixty acres, and besides being unsurpassed as farming land, is situated in the oil belt of Hancok county. The farm has on it several producing gas and oil wells. Mr. Hudson retired from his farm in January, 1902, and removed to Findlay, where he expects to pass the remainder of his days. Mr. Hudson is proud to recognize the term self-made man. He secured his property by hard knocks. He literally dug out the one hundred and sixty acres which he now owns. In 1864 occurred the marriage of Mr. Hudson, the ceremony uniting him to Miss Mary, daughter of William and Jane Taylor, and to whom one son was born, William T. Mrs. Hudson was born in Washington township in 1843. When William T. arrived at maturity he married an accomplished young lady, Miss Minnie Rex. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson are consistent members and earnest workers in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which organization Mr. Hudson has been frequently honored with offices of trust. William T. also is an earnest worker in the

church, being at the present time a class leader. Politically the Hudsons have always been Democrats of the Jacksonian stripe.

Mentioning briefly the main points in the history of Mrs. Hudson's family: William Taylor was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, as was also his wife, Jane Bell. They removed to Hancock county about 1836, though Mr. Taylor had come to the county in 1832, and located in Washington township on a farm of eighty acres in its original state. Mr. Taylor was a hard-working, conscientious man, farming his holdings in a progressive and up-to-date manner. His land he received from the government by the payment of the usual $1.25 per acre. During his lifetime he added by purchase to this original quarter section, and at the time of his death his estate consisted of two hundred acres. He was prominently connected with the public life of the county and was honored by his fellow citizens by being elected to the office of county commissioner. In this office he served for a period of six years with great satisfaction to his constituents. He was also connected with the minor offices in the township at various periods. The family which he reared consisted of eight children, seven of whom are now living, and six being residents of the county. He was a stanch Democrat in politics, and delighted to further the interests of that party in every way. He was one of those choice spirits who carried his religion about with him, and to whom the Methodist church in Hancock county owes a very great deal for its early engrafting upon the residents of the county. Mr. Taylor died March 2, 1886, his wife outliving him by eight years. They were both lamented by a host of friends by whom they were highly esteemed.

SAMUEL HADDOX.

Mordecai Haddox was one of the many aspiring young men who left the Old Dominion in the early part of the nineteenth century to seek their fortunes in the "boundless west." He was born of poor parents August 10, 1805, left his native Virginia when scarcely past boyhood, and bravely faced the problem of carving out a home for himself among strangers in a strange land. Shortly after his arrival he became acquainted with Margaret Lanters, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and to this lady he was married January 1, 1829. Two years later the newly wedded couple found their way to Blanchard township, Hancock county, where, in the technical language of the day, they "entered one hundred and sixty acres of uncultivated land." The prospects for settlers in 1831 were not so pleas-

ing as they have since become as the result of growth and cultivation, but the raw material was there and only awaited the necessary labor for development. Mordecai Haddox and his wife were courageous and hopeful, not afraid of work and equal to the hard tasks they had set before themselves. By dint of ceaseless toil, good management, saving habits, and the natural increase in values due to the state's rapid growth, the family in course of time succeeded in adding two hundred and forty more acres to their original investment. Mordecai became successful as an agriculturist, being especially efficient as a stockraiser, and eventually obtained a standing as one of the reliable and trustworthy men of his community. Though a Whig in conviction, he was not much addicted to politics and never sought office, but occasionally, at the solicitation of his friends, he consented to hold some of the minor township positions. He lost his wife by death January 20, 1855, and after surviving her twenty-three years closed his own earthly career on the 30th of January, 1878. The family register contains the following record of the names and dates of birth of his children: John, born January 28, 1830; Hannah, born December 26, 1831; Jacob, now deceased, born July 30, 1834; Samuel, subject of this sketch, more fully noticed below; Margaret, now dead, was born April 9, 1840; and an unnamed infant who died in 1846.

Samuel Haddox, fourth of the above enumerated children, was born on his father's farm in Hancock county, Ohio, May 30, 1837, and has spent his whole life in the neighborhood of his nativity. His time and attention have been devoted to agriculture, with which pursuit he became familiar in boyhood and has prosecuted with success in maturer years. The one hundred and sixty acres originally entered by his father is now divided between John and Samuel, the only two of the children at present living in Hancock county. The eighty acres falling to the share of our subject have been cultivated with skill and much improved in every respect, constituting one of the best tracts of the size in Blanchard township. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, though he usually confines himself to voting and avoids office-seeking, the only official positions held by him being those of supervisor and school director. He is regarded as a man of excellent judgment, who attends strictly to his own business and discharges conscientiously all the duties of good citizenship.

February 6, 1861, Mr. Haddox was united in marriage with Elizabeth Hoskinsons, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, February 13, 1841. The names of the children resulting from this union are thus recorded: William D., now deceased, born December 27, 1861; Laura M., born Septem-

ber 8, 1864; Nina F., born December 23, 1866; Ostrilla G., born April 29, 1869; Levi M., born December 8, 1871; Charles K., now dead, born March 30, 1874; Hannah M., born November 5, 1876; Arthey A., born February 23, 1879; Leneus L., born December 17, 1882; and Emma L., born March 24, 1884. Mr. Haddox is a trustee of the United Brethren church, of which he and his wife have long been consistent members, and active in connection with the various educational and philanthropic work of the denomination.

J. B. KELLEY.

The above named is a practical farmer of Blanchard township, who owns and operates a farm of eighty acres of valuable and productive land, which he cultivates by modern and up-to-date methods. He is a member of a family long resident in Ohio, whose representatives have been identified with the agricultural development of their respective localities in such a manner as to take rank among the model farmers. The first of the name in this state were Ezekiel and Rachel Kelley, who came from their native state of Pennsylvania and located in the neighborhood of Fostoria, on a large tract of land purchased from the government. This couple had six children, five of whom are still living, and among this number is C. S. Kelley, who, at the time of his parents' arrival, was still a youth, his birth having occurred in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1825. After reaching manhood he purchased a farm of eighty acres four miles west of Fostoria, to which he subsequently added one hundred and thirty-five more, besides one hundred and sixty acres owned by him in Michigan at one time. This statement would indicate of itself that he has been quite successful in business, but in other ways also he impressed himself upon his community. He has served as justice of the peace for twenty-six years, was county commissioner two terms and held numerous other offices of minor importance. He first married Mary Jane Hagerman, by whom he had one child, and by a second marriage, with Mary Bryan, his family was increased by the births of eight children, of whom the six now living are: Cornelia, J. B., M. D., C. C., W. M. and Mamie. Mr. Kelley died September 6, 1902, at Fostoria.

J. B. Kelley, the second of his living children, was born in Washington township, Hancock county, Ohio, on the 15th of February, 1854. He grew up in his native place, attended the district schools and in early life became an agent of the Standard Oil Company, in whose employment he served seven years, and during that time traveled extensively in almost every state of the Union. After resigning this position he was employed two years as

collector for P. F. Collier, and in 1887 returned to his native county, of which he has since remained a continuous resident. His first investment in real estate was the purchase of seventy acres of farming land near Arcadia, and on this place he resided for twelve years. At the end of that period he disposed of his holdings, and in 1900 bought the farm in Blanchard township which constitutes his present homestead. April 11, 1888, he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie, daughter of Jacob C. and Magdaline Smith, of Crawford county, Ohio, and from this union there are two children: Blanch, born March 11, 1889; and Karl, born November 28, 1891. Like his father before him, Mr. Kelley is a member of the Democratic party and very earnest in the advocacy of its principles. He is a member of the school board and uses his influence to advance the cause of education, as well as every other measure which his judgment tells him will be for the best interests of the people.

JOSEPH T. BARTOON.

Having been a resident of Hancock county for more than half a century and during that time prominent both in business and as a holder of county offices, the gentleman above named is perhaps known more generally than any other citizen. And no one who once sees him is apt to forget him, as he has a remarkable physical development, being six feet six inches in height and large in proportion. A sheriff of these dimensions, armed with the legal power to arrest, is calculated to strike terror in the average criminal, and when Mr. Bartoon was in office he allowed "no foolishness" around his place of business. He preserved law and order, and finished his two terms with the reputation of being one of the best officials the county ever had. The family is of German origin and was founded in this country by John Bartoon, who was born about 1755, emigrated to the United States in early life and died in 1860 at Lancaster, Ohio. His son, Jonathan Bartoon, was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1805, came to Ohio in youth and died in 1893 at Benton Ridge, when eighty-seven years old.

Joseph T. Bartoon, son of the last mentioned, was born on his father's farm near Lancaster, Ohio, April 1, 1846, and was brought by his parents to Hancock county in September of the following year. He grew up on his father's farm in Union township and remained on the home place for forty-three years, engaged in agricultural purusits. In 1890 he was elected sheriff of Hancock county and served with so much satisfaction that his constituents gave him a re-election in 1892, and in all he filled the office four years. In

1895 he was appointed infirmary director of the county and has since discharged the duties of that position so satisfactorily as to be retained continuously in the office. In 1873 Mr. Bartoon was married at Gilboa, Ohio, to Sarah McDowell, but has no children. He is a member of the Elks and Eagle Post, No. 109, at Benton Ridge, of the Grand Army of the Republic. His right to the membership is based upon his service as a Union soldier of the One Hundred and Ninety-second Ohio Regiment, in which he enlisted at Fndlay in January, 1865, as a member of Company H, and was discharged the following September. In 1894 he engaged in the livery business at Findlay, which he continued until June, 1902.

REV. ARTHUR M. GROWDEN, PH. B.

At the southwest corner of Main and Filmore streets is located the Church of Christ, one of the attractive ecclesiastical edifices of the city of Findlay, and one whose work is being zealously and successfully carried forward under the effective care and supervision of its able and devoted pastor, whose name initiates this article. Mr. Growden is a man of fine intellectuality, is devoted to the duties of his high calling and has consecrated his life and powers to the cause of the Divine Master and to the uplifting of his fellow men. Through his earnest efforts the church in Findlay has made notable progress in both spiritual and temporal strength, and his ministration has endeared him to the members of his flock, while his gracious personality has gained to him the esteem of all with whom he comes in contact. He is a forcible and convincing speaker, definite and inflexible in his faith and unremitting in his attention to the pastoral duties lying outside of the regular services of the church. It is but fitting that he be accorded recognition in this publication, so that a permanent tribute to his work and his effective labors may remain through the years to come, when he is called to "rest from his labors."

Arthur M. Growden is a native of New Zealand, having been born in the beautiful city of Dunedin, the capital of the province of Otago, and the metropolis of the island, in 1861, being the son of Henry Growden, who was born in Cornwall, England, in 1825, his wife being also a native of the same county. He was an architect by profession, and in 1859 emigrated to Australia, where he did an important work in the line of his vocation, having been the architect of many fine public buildings in the city of Melbourne, and also in New Zealand, and having been one of the most distinguished representatives of his profession in that section of the world. He was promi-

nently identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been influential in the fraternity in both Australia and New Zealand. He died in Dunedin in 1895, in the fullness of years and honors.

Our subject was reared to the age of twenty years in his native city, and there received his preliminary educational discipline. At the age noted he came to the United States and entered the College of the Bible, at Lexington, Kentucky, where he completed the full biblical course in 1883, and was then ordained to the ministry of the Church of Christ. In 1899 he received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy from Fenton College, at Fenton, Michigan. Mr. Growden assumed pastoral charge of the church in Findlay, and here his labors have been attended with unqualified success. He is well known and highly honored in connection with his church work and in the best social life of the community. An earnest worker in the cause of temperance, he naturally gives his political support to the Prohibition party, and fraternally he is a popular member of the Knights of Pythias.

At McMinnville, Tennessee, in the year 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Growden to Miss Eila E. Walling, daughter of Jesse Walling, formerly mayor of that city.

HILTON A. VICKERS, M. D.

A man who has worked his way to an enviable position in his profession and has won the confidence and respect of a large part of the population of Findlay is Dr. Hilton A. Vickers. His father was also a physician, and it was from him the son inherited the ambition which he afterward found the means to gratify. The father, W. H. Vickers, was a physician in Coshocton county, Ohio, for about forty years, and his death occurred in 1870, in Old Plainfield, Ohio, at the age of fifty-nine years. Two brothers of our subject, Victor and Lorenzo, served their country faithfully through the Civil war.

Dr. Hilton A. Vickers was born in Old Plainfield, Ohio, June 18, 1857, at which place he lived until he was eighteen years old. A desire to go west led him to venture alone to Henry county, Indiana, where he worked on a farm for about seven months, and then attended school at Dover Hill, Indiana, at the same time working for a farmer in order to defray his expenses. He then taught for two terms, and next, after four years, having resolved to enter his father's profession, returned to his native state and studied medicine in the office of Dr. A. E. Walker, completing his course at the Columbus Medical College, at which seat of learning he was graduated in 1884. He first located in Evansburg, Ohio, where he built up a practice and lived for

J. A. Vickers M.D.

eight years. He then practiced his profession in Deshler, this state, for two years, and in 1893 removed to Findlay, where he has ever since continued in the active practice of medicine.

Dr. Vickers was married at Old Plainfield, Ohio, his birthplace, in 1881, to Miss Sallie A. Smith, and they have had eight children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Archie V., Raymond F., Goldie, Ella, Bertha, Earl and Grace. The Doctor is a chapter Mason, of which fraternal organization he is a very popular member. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, in the principles and doctrines of which he is entirely sympathetic. He keeps up his professional interests outside of this city as a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and is also an active member of the Hancock Medical Society. In Findlay Dr. Vickers has a very successful practice, which is becoming more extensive and more satisfactory each year.

HENRY SHEETS.

Mathias Sheets, who founded the family of that name in America, was a blacksmith by trade in his native country of Germany, and was brought to this country in 1776 with the German allies of the British army. Just after the battle at Monmouth, New Jersey, Mathias and a companion deserted and started off in search of the American army. On their way they saw a squad of British cavalry in pursuit and to escape them hid in some hay that was contained in an old building near by.

When the troopers, who had not seen the runaways, came near the place of their concealment, they thrust their sabers into the hay through the cracks between the logs, but fortunately did not reach far enough to touch the trembling fugitives. When the latter heard the squad ride away they lost no time in leaving their place of refuge, and eventually arrived within the lines of the Revolutionary forces. After the war Mathias Sheets settled in southeastern Pennsylvania, where he reared a family in which was included a son named Jacob. The latter married Christina, daughter of Nicholas Boher, who served as a private on the American side in the war for independence. Jacob and Christina (Boher) Sheets became the parents of nine children, three sons and six daughters, two of the former and four of the latter still living. The second son, Joseph, was a member of Company I, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served creditably throughout the Civil war. He was with General Banks during his expedition up the Red river, and was on board a steamboat with his regi-

ment when the part of the army to which he belonged passed the fortifications at Vicksburg under the cover of a dark night. History relates how the forts opened a furious cannonade on the daring fleet as it passed, and one cannon-ball passed through the boat containing the regiment to which Joseph Sheets belonged. Later this regiment was sent around by water to Washington and from there to Shenandoah Valley, where in the battle with Early's army, October 19, 1864, Joseph was captured and sent with others to the prison at Richmond. After being exchanged in January, 1865, he was sent to Maryland and later to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, where he died and was buried.

Henry Sheets, the eldest of the children of Jacob and Christina, and the subject of this sketch, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, July 26, 1824, and when only nine months old was taken by his parents to Center county, in the same state. They lived on a rented farm and there Henry spent most of his boyhood, attending district school during the three months' term in winter and helping on the farm at other times. In 1842, at the age of seventeen, Henry gained permission of his parents to go to Hancock county, Ohio, where he worked by the month on a farm owned by his uncle near the location of the present village of Arcadia, and in the winter taught the district school of that neighborhood. After spending eighteen months in Ohio Henry Sheets returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1847, and then came back to Hancock county, which has ever since been the place of his residence. For about nineteen years his two-fold occupation was carpentering in the building season and teaching school during the inclement weather of winter. In 1859 he engaged in farming and the next year was elected to the office of auditor of Hancock county, in which position he served two terms of two years each. In March, 1861, Mr. Sheets located with his family at Findlay, where he spent five years and returned to the farm near Arcadia, which has been his home from that time to this. After serving two years as examiner of county schools Mr. Sheets was appointed, in 1870, to fill out the unexpired term of the county treasurer, who had left the county. In 1876 he was elected to the lower house of the Ohio Legislature to fill the unexpired term of Hon. A. H. Phillips, who died after serving half his term, and in 1877 he was re-elected to a full term of two years.

December 18, 1851, was solemnized the marriage of Henry Sheets and Miss Martha, daughter of James Campbell, a prominent farmer of Hancock county, residing in Cass township. Of the eight children born of this union two died within less than three weeks after birth and Mathew, one

of the sons, died of typhoid fever at the age of twenty-eight years. The five survivors consist of three sons and two daughters, of whom Rufus, the eldest son, is living in Marshall county, Iowa, where he owns a flouring mill on the Iowa river. James H., the second son, is a carpenter by trade and follows that occupation for a living. Homer, the youngest son, attends to the farming on the old homestead and, like his brother, James, is unmarried. Ellen, the eldest daughter, is unmarried and remains at the family homestead. Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, married Albert Kopf, with whom she resides at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where her husband holds the position of blacksmith for the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, doing all needed repairing in his line for the road from Stony Island, near Chicago, to Bellevue, Ohio. Considering the fact that he had only four dollars when he arrived in Hancock county, the subject of our sketch may truly be said to have achieved a creditable success in life, but he is a modest man, and does not brag either of what he has or what he has done. At the present time his farm consists of one hundred and fifty acres, after Mr. Sheets gave the right of way to two railroads and to the electric road from Fostoria to Findlay. Since 1849 Mr. Sheets and his wife have been members of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Arcadia, to which three other members of the family also belong. In politics Mr. Sheets is now and always has been a member of the Democratic party, but he has never belonged to any of the secret societies. He has aimed always to do his duty as best he could, both in public and private life,—to be just toward his fellow man and to fulfill all the requirements of good citizenship.

ISAAC W. COOPER.

Isaac W. Cooper, retired farmer, and one of the solid and prosperous men of the community, is not only a native of the state of Ohio, but also of Hancock county, where he was born in Portage township in the year 1842, and he is a typical American farmer of the broad-minded, liberal and successful class. Mr. Cooper is of English descent. His grandfather (also Isaac W. Cooper) was born in England, but came to this country and settled in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where his son, Amos Cooper, was born in 1808. Later, in the year 1812, the grandfather, Isaac W. Cooper, moved with his family out into the great new state of Ohio, which a few years before had been a part of the Western Reserve country, and located in Perry county. When the war of 1812 broke out he sided with the country of his adoption, and was a soldier in that war, fighting against the English

and for the United States. Amos Cooper, father of Isaac W. Cooper, came with his parents in 1812, from Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, to Perry county, Ohio. Later, in the year 1832, he moved to Hancock county, Ohio, where he afterwards resided and where he died in 1879. He was a farmer all his life, and was an honored and esteemed citizen. Isaac W. Cooper was reared on the farm in Hancock county where his father lived for years, but in 1879 he moved to Allen township, where he resided until 1900. when he moved to Findlay to take life a little easier and enjoy some of the comforts of life for which he had worked and planned for so many years.

In the year 1864, when more volunteers were called for, he entered the Union army and served four months in Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-third Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private. He was in the fighting between Richmond and Petersburg during the Virginia campaign, and under fire for almost a month. After being mustered out at Columbus he returned home to Portage township, Hancock county, Ohio. Mr. Cooper belongs to Stoker Post No. 54, G. A. R.

Mr. Cooper has been township assessor, having held that office for two terms in Allen township, and two terms in Portage township, and was trustee of Allen township for one term. Mr. Cooper is a Democrat. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and belongs to the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Cooper was married January 29, 1865, in Allen township, Hancock county, Ohio, to Amanda, daughter of Ephraim Trout, and they have two daughters living, as follows: Sarah E. and Phoebe C., wife of the Reverend Earl Kempher. Their eldest child and son, William Grant Cooper, died in April, 1900, in the very prime of his life, loved and honored by all who knew him.

William Grant Cooper was born May 19, 1866, and was the pride and hope of his father's heart. He was reared on his father's farm in Allen township, attending the country schools, and at the age of sixteen commenced teaching school and taught for seven terms, and then, in 1886, he entered Findlay College and graduated in 1891. William Grant Cooper was not content to be a farmer; he felt that he was fitted for a professional life, and his great desire was to be a doctor—one of the noblest callings, and where he could do good to his fellow men and ease the sufferings of humanity. After graduating from Findlay College he was made superintendent of the schools of Van Buren, Hancock county, and held that position for one year. Then he entered the Baltimore Medical College, at Baltimore, Maryland, and graduated with honor in 1894. He located first at Bowling Green, Ohio, but about three months later was appointed by the late President Mc-

Kinley, then governor of Ohio, who recognized his sterling worth and character, on the medical staff of the State Hospital at Toledo, Ohio, which position he held until March, 1900, when he resigned, intending to go to Findlay, Ohio, where his parents were to locate. One month later, in April, 1900, he died of typhoid fever. His was a short life, not quite half of the three score years and ten allotted to mankind, but in that time he had risen in his profession and was honored and beloved by his fellow citizens. He belonged to the United Brethren church, and had been superintendent of the United Brethren Sunday-school at Van Buren, Ohio. William Grant Cooper received from Findlay College the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, and Bachelor of Philosophy. He was a Knight of Pythias, and they had charge of his obsequies and passed resolutions on his death.

ANDREW SAGER.

Among the prominent dairymen and farmers of Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, whose fine, well cultivated farm of two hundred and thirty-six acres is one of the most valuable in this locality, is Andrew Sager, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on February 4, 1830. He is a son of Shem and Mary B. Sager, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Germany. They removed to Fairfield county in the days of its early settlement, and were prominent and worthy people.

Andrew Sager was reared and educated in his native county. In 1854 he moved to Hancock county, locating upon his present farm, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres in section 35, in what was then Findlay township, later purchasing the additional acres to complete the present two hundred. In 1862, when his country asked her sons to come to her defense, our subject was one who loyally responded, enlisting on August 23, in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and gallantly serving until the close of the Civil war, being honorably discharged on July 5, 1865. He was connected with the Fourth brigade and second division, and participated in the battles of Mossy Creek, Columbia, Franklin, Nashville, and belonged to the part of the army that pursued General Hood in the Georgia campaign.

Upon his return from his honorable service in the army Mr. Sager resumed his agricultural pursuits and gradually enlarged his business, adding buildings and conveniences until he was able to engage extensively in a dairy business. This he has managed with success, keeping a fine strain of cows and selling his products with very satisfactory results. He is a systematic

farmer, and much of his prosperity is due to his close and careful attention to every part of his large domain.

November 15, 1855, Mr. Sager was married to Miss Susannah Powell, who was born in Liberty township November 2, 1834, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah Powell, and Mr. and Mrs. Sager have four children: Raymond S., Laura A., Ilvie I. and Mellie M.

Mr. Sager is a public spirited citizen, who lives up to the demands of the day, and takes an interest in all enterprises which he thinks will be of advantage to the farmer. He is a leading member of the United Evangelical church of Findlay. He is highly esteemed in Liberty township as a man of integrity and excellent business ability. In politics he is a Republican.

MARTIN P. McGEE.

The above named is forty-two years old, and nearly two-thirds of that time has been spent around oil and gas wells, in which business he has become an expert. Mr. McGee is entitled to the distinction of having worked upon the first producing gas well in the Findlay field, which started the great boom of 1884 and attracted so much attention all over the country. He is one of the seven living children of Michael McGee, who was born in county Wicklow, Ireland, in 1837, came to the United States when sixteen years old and located in Allegany county, New York, where he remained a number of years, but is now a resident of Indiana.

Martin P. McGee was born in Allegany county, New York, March 22, 1860, and when six years old was taken by his parents to Warren county, Pennsylvania. Martin grew up and received his early education in that locality, and in the sixteenth year of his age went with the family to McKean county, Pennsylvania, where he obtained work around the oil wells, which kept him employed until 1882, when he returned to Allegany county, New York, where oil had been discovered during his absence. He secured work in this business and remained there until the spring of 1884, when he went to Erie, Pennsylvania. Remaining here but a short time, however, he came to Findlay in October of the same year, and until 1890 worked by the day. The day after his arrival in Findlay he started out to work on a gas well a mile east of town, on the farm of Dr. Austin, and two weeks later struck gas. This proved to be a "gusher," and was the first producing well drilled in the Findlay field of northwestern Ohio. It was an event in the history not only of Findlay but the state of Ohio, as the subsequent discoveries of this precious fuel led to a growth and development of unprecedented rapid-

ity. In 1890 Mr. McGee became a producer on his own account, and has since been one of the busy men of this locality, his interests being located in Wood, Sandusky and Hancock counties.

In 1886 Mr. McGee was married at Findlay to Jennie, daughter of James McCall, and they have an only son named Frank. Mr. McGee is a Knight Templar Mason and has served in the city council, being elected a member of that body in the spring of 1901 as a representative of the Democratic party, of which he is one of the leaders in Hancock county.

J. B. KARST.

J. B. Karst, a leading manufacturer of tile, used in the draining of land, has been an important factor in the development of Hancock county, his business being one closely associated with agricultural success. The modern farmer no longer struggles with undrained land and poor soil, and it is due to able and energetic men like Mr. Karst that no such conditions are longer necessary.

It was in Germany that our subject was born, in 1829, and from there he emigrated in 1848, locating for a short time in New York. From there it was but a short journey to Philadelphia, but it was in Hancock county, Ohio, that Mr. Karst finally decided to found his home. His parents, Peter and Elizabeth Karst, emigrated also in 1848, and it was in conjunction with his father that he made his first land purchase of forty acres, in Eagle township. In the course of time they sold this land and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Orange township, and so great was their industry that in three years' time they had seventy-five acres fenced. This farm was the property of our subject's father, who at his death gave the son eighty acres of it. This land our subject retained for seven years, selling it to remove to Allen township.

Mr. Karst has always been a busy man and is one able to fill a number of different positions in life. From 1854 to 1860 he was an efficient grocery clerk in Findlay, and then he learned the carpenter trade, following the same until 1870. He then located upon his present valuable farm of sixty acres in Liberty township. Upon this farm he discovered the clay in great abundance which he uses in the making of tile, and this business he carries on extensively, in connection with farming.

In April, 1860, Mr. Karst was married to Miss Josephine Deitz, and to this union there were born thirteen children, eight of whom still survive, namely: Sylvester, Christina, Amelia, Clara, Frederick, Anna, Agnes and

John A. The mother of this family was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1841, and still survives to be her husband's companion and helpmate. The family are all members of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Karst is justly held in high esteem in this community. He is a man of great kindness of heart and of generous impulses, and is ever ready to assist his neighbors with a helping hand. His financial position is very secure, as in addition to the valuable clay deposits on his farm he has some producing oil wells.

LORENZO FIRMIN, M. D.

On the 12th of October, 1901, there passed away at his home in Findlay, Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, a well beloved physician, whose many years of faithful toil in his profession made his name a household word in the community. Nor were his influence and efforts confined to his profession alone, for in all the varied activities of common life he took a helpful part as a loyal citizen, devoting his abilities to the cause of progress. His loss is deeply mourned by all classes and the following brief account of one so esteemed will be read with unusual interest.

The Doctor was born in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, March 31, 1808, and was the fifth child in a family of ten, his parents being John and Lovina (Green) Firmin, who belonged to good old New England families and were married in Wilbraham in 1800. The father was a shoemaker and under his direction the Doctor learned that trade during his youth, following it in the village of his birth until he reached the age of twenty-two. Coming to Ohio in 1834, he first located in Richfield, Summit county, where he engaged in the tanning business in connection with Dr. Secretary Rawson, who afterward became his father-in-law. It was at Richfield in 1838 that he married Clara Harriet Rawson, a daughter of his partner, and from that place they drove to Findlay on their wedding trip.

After locating in this city Dr. Firmin continued following the shoemaker's trade for a time and then took up the study of medicine with his wife's uncle, Dr. Bass Rawson, with whose name Findlay is very familiar. After completing his course of study and preparing himself for his chosen profession he opened an office in Findlay, but in 1847 removed to Benton Ridge, where he spent one year. As some of Findlay's physicians had entered the army during the Mexican war, leaving a professional opening for him here, he returned to this city in 1848 and continued in active practice until 1877, when he retired. During three years of this time, the present

Lorenzo D. Timmin

well known physician of this city, Dr. F. W. Firmin, was associated with him as partner. After his retirement from medical practice our subject gave his attention to his private business matters, which were many and important.

His first wife having died in 1891, Dr. Firmin was again married in 1894, his second union being with Miss Mary B. Humphrey, a native of Findlay and a daughter of Jarvis Humphrey. Her father was born in Simsbury, Connecticut, in 1809, and was a son of Dudley Humphrey, also a native of that place and of English descent. In 1851 Jarvis Humphrey became a resident of Hancock county, Ohio, and after spending about six months in Findlay he located on a farm and throughout his active business life was engaged in agricultural pursuits, but his last days were spent in retirement in the city, where he died at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Julia Barber and was also born in Simsbury, Connecticut, died at the age of seventy-seven years. In the family of this worthy couple were six children, namely: Chauncey D., a fruit farmer of Hancock county; Marian, wife of George E. Cook, of Torrington, Connecticut; Ellen A., wife of B. O. Robinson, of Putnam county, Ohio; Justine, wife of John H. King, of Findlay; Jarvis S., a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Mary B., now Mrs. Firmin. All of the children were born in Connecticut with exception of the last named. The father was an active and consistent member of the Congregational church and was a stanch Republican in politics. Mrs. Firmin received a good education in the schools of Findlay and for ten years successfully engaged in teaching, three years of this time being employed in the village school of Arcadia, and the remainder in other schools of Hancock county.

As an earnest Christian, Dr. Firmin took quite a prominent part in religious work, was one of the organizers of the First Congregational church of Findlay and contributed liberally to its support, although he did not become a member of the same until 1871, from which time he was one of its most active and faithful adherents. He was exceedingly generous and benevolent and was one of the first three men to each donate one hundred dollars to assist in organizing the Young Men's Christian Association here. Later when it was in need of funds to keep up current expenses, he made a donation of five hundred dollars, payable in sums of one hundred dollars a year. He also made a large donation of property to Oberlin College and his private beneficences were many.

As a man Dr. Firmin was widely known and highly respected and from a local paper printed at the time of his death we quote the following as a

just tribute to his memory: "He was a man of
ability and energy, and maintained his clearnes
vigor of body to the very last, giving personal a
all his affairs. During his career as a physician
well as the people of this county, he was known
refused a call, no matter how dark or stormy th
road. Throughout life he carried the same ener
though he never sought or allowed offices to b
ever interested and active in all public affairs, ar
ests of the community in which he lived. In e
didacy of Fremont, he was in politics a Democra
with the organization of that party and so rem
death." He enjoyed that popularity which com
who have a hearty shake of the hand for all th
in contact from day to day, and who seem to th
quence so much of the sunshine of life.

GEORGE W. PHIFE

A very successful farmer and stockraiser of
W. Phifer, who operates a fine farm of two h
Liberty township, particularly well adapted to
cattle and Poland China hogs, in which business
success, has gained quite a reputation.

The birth of George W. Phifer occurred De
a son of Emanuel and Emily (Bowling) Phife
a son of Jacob and Mary (Ellinger) Phifer, wh
Ohio, in 1806, from Pennsylvania. Jacob Phife
Maryland, while his wife was born in Bedford
trade he was a tanner, and he followed this busi
locating in Lithopolis, Fairfield county, Ohio, he
erty. His family numbered five children, one
to the unusual age of ninety-eight years, eight mo

Emanuel Phifer was born in Fairfield county
and learned the tanning business with his fathe
1834, when he located in Hancock county and
acres. His long residence in the same locality has made him one of the
pioneers, who is most highly esteemed. He is a leading member of the
Baptist church. In political matters he votes as his judgment indicates.

In 1830 he married Emily Bowling, who died in 1875. The children born to them were eight in number, five still surviving, namely: Sarah E. and Annie, who reside at home with their father, who is in his ninety-seventh year; Emeline; John S., who lives retired in Kentucky; George W.; and Edwin, who is a civil engineer located in Richland county, Ohio.

George W. Phifer was reared and educated in Findlay township, and adopted farming as his vocation. In 1872 he purchased one hundred acres of good land, removing to it in 1875, and in 1880 he began to raise Shorthorn cattle and a high grade of hogs, his success being encouraging from the very beginning.

In 1866 Mr. Phifer was united in marriage with Miss Almenia Insley, who is a daughter of T. F. and Emelia Insley, who were old settlers in Mt. Pleasant township, but who finally moved out of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Phifer are both valued members of the Methodist church at Findlay, and are much esteemed by a large circle of friends.

PHILEMON B. MORRISON.

The narrative of a life which has been filled with useful deeds and with duties well performed cannot lack interest, even to the casual reader or the stranger. Such a career has been that of Philemon B. Morrison, who has been an honored resident of Findlay throughout his entire life. His great-grandfather was William Morrison, and his grandfather, Alexander Morrison, was a native of the Keystone state, but subsequently came to Ohio, and here he devoted his energies to the tilling of the soil until his life labors were ended by death. John H. Morrison, our subject's father, was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in 1802, and in 1836 became a resident of the Buckeye state, casting in his lot with the citizens of Findlay. He became a worthy representative of the legal profession, and his name was a familiar one in political and professional circles throughout this portion of the state. The remainder of his days were passed in this city, where he closed his eyes in death in 1854.

Philemon B. Morrison is indebted to the public school system of this city for the educational privileges which he was permitted to enjoy in his youth. In 1864 he embarked in the mercantile field, entering the stove and tinware business in this city, which vocation he continued to follow until 1878. For the three succeeding years his attention was devoted to the retail furniture business, and on the expiration of that period he entered the foundry and machine business, to which he devoted his efforts for the following six

years. In 1898 he entered the vocation which has since claimed his time and attention, and in which he has met with a high degree of success, being now engaged in the sale of feed and builders' supplies. The business is now one of the most profitable industries in the city of Findlay, and is a monument to the thrift and enterprise of the owner, whose persistent purpose and diligence have enabled him to gain a prominent position among the substantial business men of the city.

In Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1868, occurred the marriage of Mr. Morrison and Miss Rebecca C. Reed. The lady is a daughter of Samuel Reed, and by her marriage with Mr. Morrison she has become the mother of five children, three sons and two daughters. The Republican party receives Mr. Morrison's active support and co-operation, and on its ticket he has been elected to many positions of honor and trust. In 1876 he became a member of the city council of Findlay, to which position he was re-elected two years later, serving in all for four years. In 1888 he was elected one of the water-works trustees, and while a member of the board the present water-works system was built, at a cost of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Morrison is also a director in the City Banking Company, and in all movements for the development and upbuilding of his town and county has been an active and tireless worker.

A. W. STEVENSON.

Few men have had more opportunity to thoroughly learn practical farming in all its branches than the worthy citizen above named, and who at present is one of the representative agriculturists of Blanchard township. Like Jacob of old, whose story is so beautifully told in the book of Genesis, Mr. Stevenson had to work twice seven years for others before he was able to enter into his own as a proprietor of stock and land and all the other belongings of a farm. While, like Jacob, the prize offered him as a reward for faithful service was not a beautiful Rachel, it proved valuable on account of the experience which was to be the basis of success in future ventures on his own account. Mr. Stevenson is descended from pioneers who came into Ohio shortly after its organization as a state and through direct or collateral branches furnished representatives in the agriculture of various counties. Originally the family was of Irish and German extraction, but the founders of the Ohio branch were George and Eliza Stevenson, who located in Champaign county during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Among their children was Isaac Stevenson, whose birth occurred in Fairfield

county, Ohio, in 1819, while his wife Eliza was born in Licking county in 1830. They resided a while in Franklin and moved thence to Spaulding county, where Isaac died November 11, 1888, and his wife on the 12th of April, 1872.

A. W. Stevenson, son of the foregoing couple, was born in 1854, during the residence of his parents in Franklin county, Ohio, and went with them on their subsequent removal to Paulding county. In that locality he was reared and educated, and there he resided until the twenty-second year of his age. In 1876 he left the parental roof to face an arduous struggle for existence, as his only capital was a disposition and capacity for hard work. Going over to Hancock county, he secured employment as a farm hand with Charles Reese, of Blanchard township, and put in two years of faithful service on that place. At the end of that time he engaged with Jasper Dukes in the same line of work, followed by eight years of agricultural labor of various kinds on the farm of John J. Moffitt. In 1888 Mr. Stevenson concluded to make a change both in locality and labor, and going over to Michigan, he embarked in the lumber business, which he followed with varying fortunes for seven years and then abandoned it to return to his original pursuit as a tiller of the soil. After sojourning a short time in Allen county, Ohio, with no definite results, he repaired again to Hancock county, where he found a safe and permanent anchorage on the farm in Blanchard township which constitutes his present homestead. He cultivates three hundred and thirty-two acres of land, which is valuable both on account of its productive qualities and its high state of improvement, and it is devoted to general farming, including the cereal crops suitable to that locality and stock raising for domestic uses. As previously stated, Mr. Stevenson is a successful farmer, practical and progressive in his methods, painstaking in his plans and cautious in his contracts. He enjoys general esteem as a neighbor, is regarded as a man of reliability and integrity, and fulfills every requirement involved in the duties of good citizenship.

November 27, 1895, Mr. Stevenson was happily married to Miss Katie M. McClure, a native of Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, where her birth occurred March 25, 1874. She was a daughter of Thomas and Alice McClure, her mother being a daughter of John J. Moffit, one of the original settlers of Hancock county. The latter's grandparents, Hugh and Hannah Moffit, were natives, respectively, of Ireland and Wales, who emigrated to America in the latter part of the eighteenth century and located in New York. Their son Joshua was born in Chatham county, New York, in December, 1774, and his wife Sarah was born in the same county June 6, 1783.

The last mentioned couple removed to Ross county, Ohio, early in the nineteenth century, and there on January 11, 1819, was born their son, John J. Moffit, who subsequently became an early settler of Hancock county. The latter's daughter, Alice, was born October 13, 1852, married Thomas McClure May 8, 1873, and Mrs. Katie M. Stevenson was their only child.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Stevenson have had five children: Wilmer M., Alice B., Edith, Thelma and one who died in infancy.

LEVI B. NEWCOMER.

Every man to his trade. The city bred man says "The best farm in Chistendom could not tempt me to be a farmer. The fact is that it approaches the occupation of a gambler. He sows his seed in the spring to see it promise abundant yield only to watch its destruction by the ruthless storm. On the other hand he enters June with a despairing cry of 'no crop,' and passes out of July with the exultant whoop of '80 bushels, if an ear.'" Then the city man goes down town and buys a block of stock upon which he has not the slightest idea whether he will make or lose. Such is life, and, as said before, every man to his trade.

The gentleman's name which initiates this paragraph is a man who has "stuck to his trade," that of farming. He has lived to see his efforts in that line crowned with success. He lives on a farm in Big Lick township, which he devotes to general farming. He was born in Stark county, Ohio, July 14, 1843, and is the son of Adam and Margaret (Bender) Newcomer. His parents were both natives of Columbiana county, Ohio, and came to Hancock county in 1852, after their marriage, where they settled in Big Lick township. They purchased a quarter section of land, partially improved. Subsequently they prospered and added eighty acres to this original farm. In connection with his agricultural interests Adam Newcomer operated quite extensively in lumber, having a saw mill in those early days. He was a good farmer, a loyal citizen and a man of usefulness in his community. His religious preferences induced him to join the Dunkards, in which body he was highly respected for his integrity and soundness of faith. He was the father of sixteen children, four of the eight now living residing in Hancock county. This family of children were reared in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and became useful members of latter day society. The father died January 21, 1897, his wife having preceded him by eleven years.

Levi B. Newcomer was but a lad eight years old when he removed to Hancock county. He continued to reside with his parents until fully grown,

becoming familiar with the fields and meadows and assisting in the work of the home farm as he grew up. During this time he received a limited education in the country schools, and upon arriving at maturity was given eighty acres of timber land by his father, upon which he took up his residence. After clearing twenty-five acres of this property he sold it and bought another eighty in a higher state of cultivation. He continued to improve this land, and in 1868 bought the farm which he now operates. Here he has erected first-class buildings of modern construction, and of commodious size. His dwelling house is a substantial brick structure of thirteen rooms, including halls, Mr. Newcomer also has a holding of real estate in the city of Findlay. In 1863 he wooed and won the heart and hand of Miss Mollie Thomas, who has presented him with eight children: Maggie, Henry, Clint, Francis Diana, Jess, Louis and Sadie. Mrs. Newcomer died in February, 1901, and on the 9th of March, 1902, Mr. Newcomer was united in wedlock to Mary Keller. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomer are worthy members of the Dunkard church, in which he has been a deacon for thirty-five years. During his residence in Hancock county he has ever held himself ready to engage in the activities of his district. He has served on the school board for ten years and filled other township offices acceptably. He has the reputation of being one of the best farmers in the county, and has the confidence and esteem of his neighbors.

EDGAR WILCOX.

As far back as history records, the real strength of the nations of the past has depended not on the armed might of the warrior class nor on the subtlety and dominion of the rulers, but on those who have, figuratively speaking, been at the bottom of the great pyramid of civilization, those who have tilled the soil, sown the grain and reaped the harvests, by their communion with the forces of nature imbibing a power irresistible when used in the mighty conflicts for the betterment of the social and moral condition of mankind. And today the index of the true character and strength of our country is to be found not from inspection of the cities, the gathering places for the rich and the rabble, but in the vast stretches covered by the prosperous and highly cultivated farms, where men grow up to develop the best and highest traits of character. And in that excellent agricultural region of Hancock county, Ohio, one of the successful and highly regarded farmers is Edgar Wilcox, a brief review of whose life deserves a place in this history.

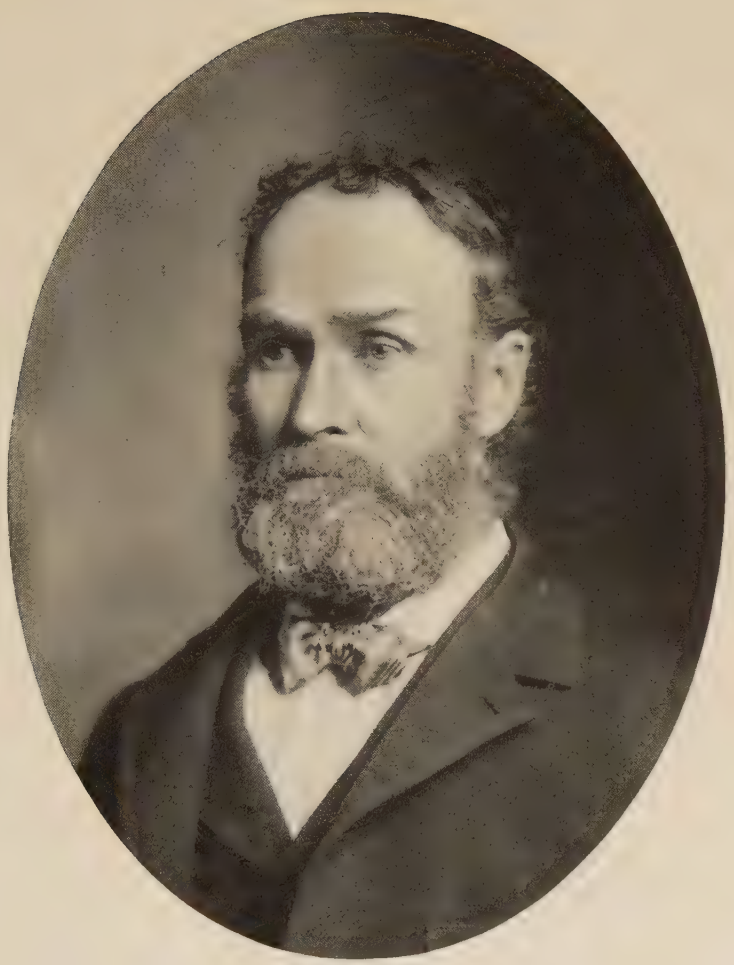
His parents were Martin and Charlotte Wilcox, the former a native of

New York state and the latter of Virginia. At an early day they came to Ohio and took up their residence in Delaware county, where they became prominent citizens; he held the office of justice of the peace in his township. Martin Wilcox's death occurred in April, 1886, and his wife passed away in June, 1872; they had eight children, of whom seven are now living.

Their son, Edgar, was born in Orange township, Delaware county, January 3, 1852, and is the only one of the family living in Hancock county. He was reared and educated in his native county and when yet a boy decided to follow agricultural pursuits, in which he has made an excellent success, now operating two hundred and forty acres of good land in Amanda township and conducting it in such a way as to bring good returns. He took up his residence in this county in 1879. On the 23d of January of the same year he was united in marriage to Miss Emma L., the daughter of Major and Sarah S. Bright; she was born January 23, 1860, and was accordingly just nineteen years of age when she became a wife. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have three children, Florence M., born December 5, 1879; Edwin S., born June 4, 1883; and Delcie B., born June 23, 1888. Florence is now the wife of Clarence Cross. Mr. Wilcox is a member of the board of education, and he and his wife are communicants of the United Brethren church. He has held various offices in church and Sunday school, and in politics is an ardent Republican.

MATHEW M. ALEXANDER.

The above named, one of the prominent and well known farmers of Hancock county for many years, is the son of Peter Alexander, an early pioneer of Hancock county. He came to this county in 1848 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he proceeded to clear, and upon which he placed many fine improvements, making it one of the best farms in the county. He was a prominent and practical farmer, a Democrat in politics and held nearly all of the township offices during some period in his life. He was born in Belmont county, Ohio, October 15, 1818. His father Peter Alexander, was a native of Maryland, where he was born October 15, in the year of the Declaration of Independence. January 17, 1805, he married Jane Mitchell, born September 3, 1786, and to them were born twelve children: Jennie, James, John, Nancy, Peter, Robert, Mathew, George, Isabel, Margaret, Betsey, and Mary. Margaret Alexander is the only surviving member of this large family. Peter Alexander, the senior, was a blacksmith by trade, and his son Peter also learned the same trade.



Matthew M Alexander

but after his removal to this county he confined his time entirely to agricultural pursuits. October 28, 1841, he was married to Nancy Hoffman, in Belmont county, Ohio, where she was born October 5, 1818, and by this union there were the following named children: Clark, deceased, born May 7, 1843; Jane, May 30, 1845; and Mathew M., September 25, 1847. Peter Alexander, Jr., died on the 19th of July, 1891, but his widow survives. Jane, the only daughter, married Jacob Franks, of Findlay, where she now resides. Mathew M. Alexander, the only surviving son, was reared in Hancock county and received an excellent education in the common schools. He has always followed agricultural pursuits, and is one of the practical kind of farmers that always make that business a success. July 4, 1870, he married Clarissa E. Trout, who died in 1872, after giving birth to a daughter, Laura M., who is also deceased.

Mathew Alexander has held various local offices, having for a long time been supervisor of the township. He now resides in Liberty township on a tract of two hundred and forty acres of land, on which there are many oil wells. In 1889 he was unfortunate enough to meet with an accident that deprived him of the use of a limb, which so incapacitated him for general farming as to make his retirement desirable. He, however, made hay while the sun shone and in the evening of life finds himself in independent circumstances.

PHILIP WILBUR EWING.

The gentleman above mentioned, who is at present clerk of Hancock county, is a sample of the class of men who come up from the country to infuse new blood into their city brethren. This process is a common one in the United States, where it is remarked that the leaders in nearly all the great municipal enterprises, as well as the captains of industry, were originally farm boys born and bred in the free air and trained to work on "father's plantation." But for this fresh blood to recruit from constantly, sociologists fear that the city population would become anaemic and gradually deteriorate. However this may be, it is always a pleasure to record the success of such country boys as Mr. Ewing, who came up from the farm to take the lead of their fellows in the cities and show remarkable adaptability for the duties of public life. The family came originally from Germany and sertled in Pennsylvania, the first of the name to come to Ohio being Jacob Ewing, grandfather of Hancock county's clerk, who died in Liberty township, at the age of sixty-eight. His son, Cornelius Ewing, was born in Ashland,

county, Ohio, April 16, 1824, and came to Hancock county in 1850. So far as can be ascertained the Ewings for generations back have been farmers, and Cornelius is no exception to the rule, as he is now and always has been a tiller of the soil. He married Elizabeth, daughter of T. F. Inzley.

Philip Wilbur Ewing, son of Cornelius, was born on his father's farm in Pleasant township, Hancock county, Ohio, December 29, 1863, and remained at home until his sixteenth year. His training and educaton were precisely similar to those received by thousands of other country boys, consisting chiefly in school attendance during the winter months, "doing chores" after hours and work on the farm in summer. Yet this is precisely the training alluded to above, which has proved valuable for so many men who have risen to the highest rank in all the walks of life. Another almost inevitable step, as it seems, in cases of this kind, is that the first business venture in life must be as a teacher, that apparently being a prerequisite to other pursuits. At any rate, Mr. Ewing followed this example by turning pedagogue when sixteen years old, his first school being taught in Liberty township in 1879. After devoting two terms to this occupation Mr. Ewing naturally turned his face toward the city, that mecca of all ambitious farm boys. Coming up to Findlay in 1881, he secured a clerkship in a dry-goods store and retained it about three years, when he decided to go into business for himself. Accordingly he opened with a stock of dry-goods and devoted the next seven years to "working up a trade," in which he was measurably successful, but in 1891 decided on a change of plan. Disposing of his dry-goods holdings, he renewed his investment in a line of furniture and carpets for the retail trade, and since that time has continued to conduct this business at Findlay with success.

Meantime Mr. Ewing had been getting in touch with politics, and soon showed his capacity both as a worker and leader. In 1897 his first honor came in the shape of an election to the city council from the Fourth ward of Findlay on the Democratic ticket, the notable feature being that he triumphed in a ward usually Republican by about one hundred and forty votes. He received sixty-six majority, served in the council with satisfaction to his supporters until April, 1899, and accumulated a stock of popularity to draw on for higher and more valuable honors. As a general thing it is what the politicians call "hard sledding" for Democrats in Hancock county as the Republicans usually roll up majorities somewhere around four hundred. So when in 1899 Mr. Ewing was given the nomination as candidate for county clerk by his party, the impression prevailed that he was leading a "forlorn hope," but when the votes were counted November 8, it was found that he had been

elected by a majority of seven hundred and sixty votes. This striking victory, in which a Republican margin of nearly four hundred was nearly doubled the other way, was something akin to a revolution which greatly astonished the political wiseacres, but it was also a signal manifestation both of Mr. Ewing's hold on the people and his ability as a leader. In November, 1902, Mr. Ewing wes re-elected clerk of the courts by a majority of 2,093, while the county gave 239 majority for Laylin (Republican) for secretary of state.

October 8, 1885, Mr. Ewing was married to Miss Nettie, daughter of Nelson Poe of Liberty township, and has two children: Mary E., born April 21, 1887, and Edgar P., born September 22, 1892. Mr. Ewing's father is at the present time the oldest resident of Hancock county. Mr. Ewing is a member of the Presbyterian church, of which he has served as trustee for seven years, and his fraternal connections are with the Elks, Knights of Pythias, and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

HENRY M. HAUSE.

One of the most prominent and respected citizens of Hancock county is H. M. Hause, a man whose history furnishes a splendid example of what may be accomplished through determined purpose, laudable ambition and well directed efforts. A native son of the Keystone state, his birth occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on the twenty-fifth of July, 1853, his parents being Lewis and Jane (Reichard) Hause, also natives of that commonwealth. The father was an excellent mechanic, and as a means of livelihood followed the wagon maker's trade. Both he and his wife were summond into eternal rest early in life, passing away in their native state, and at their death they left a family of two children, a daughter and a son.

Henry M. Hause received but limited educational advantages during his youth, but being ambitious to acquire knowledge he labored industriously with that end in view and when twenty-five years of age was able to enter the University of Ada, in Ohio, in which he was a student for some time, and after which he was given a teacher's certificate, and for eighteen years thereafter he was one of the most efficient school teachers of Hancock county. His career as an instructor ably demonstrated his ability to impart to others the knowledge he had received, and in 1889 he was made a county school examiner, being the incumbent therein for the succeeding three years. For a period of eight years he served as the township clerk of Union township, and has also filled the positions of mayor, clerk and councilman of Mt. Cory, ever discharging his public duties with the same honesty and straightforwardness

that have characterized his private life. For ten years Mr. Hause made his home in Mt. Cory, but in 1899 purchased his present farm of eighty acres, where he is engaged in general farming. This homestead was originally entered by Abraham C. Van Courtright, and is a valuable and productive tract.

The marriage of Mr. Hause was celebrated in 1889, when Miss Lottie, a daughter of Isaac A. and Mary Ann Baldwin, became his wife. She is a native daughter of the Buckeye state, her birth having occurred in Blanchard township, Hancock county, in 1866. Four children have come to brighten and bless this home, namely: Ralph, Mirth, Grace M. and Clarence M. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hause are members of the Methodist Protestant church, in which the former has served as a steward for many years. The Hause home is a happy and attractive one, where warm-hearted hospitality is always to be found by their numerous friends. In politics Mr. Hause is a Democrat.

WILLIAM P. GRAY.

William P. Gray is a child of Marion township. He was born there September 16, 1853, and has lived on his present farm ever since 1856. His education was dependent upon the instruction of the district school and upon his early home training.

He is connected with the Moorehead family through his mother, Eliza E. (Moorehead) Gray, who was born in Harrison county, this state, May 8, 1825. His father was Samuel R. Gray, a native of the same county, born December 4, 1816. His parents were married in their native county in February, 1846, and one year latter undertook a week's journey, moving all their household effects to this county, where Samuel had bought eighty acres of slightly improved land. For seven years they worked upon this land, joining their labors to secure a comfortable living. Then, when he had the chance, Samuel seized upon the opportunity and closed for two hundred acres with small improvements. With industry and forethought he developed this tract into highly cultivated property and in 1876 sold forty acres, but one hundred and twenty acres remain in the possession of his son William.

Samuel R. Gray was a man of decided business ability. He was the first to use tile in a system of drainage; and all his methods were advanced and progressive. In politics he was in the front ranks of the Republicans. He held the office of assessor for the township and, in the early history of the county, would probably have been a prominent official had not his party been in the minority. He was nominated for county commissioner but defeated

by a Democratic majority. Mr. Gray was a member of the Presbyterian church. He died October 24, 1881, but his wife still survives. They had five children, namely: Flora G.; Mary B.; William P.; Sallie H. and Phoebe J. Mary and Sallie are prominent in educational work, the former having taught for a number of years and the latter recently completed her twenty-fifth year of sacrificing labor in the school room.

September 30, 1880, William J. Gray was united in marriage to Hettie M. Price. She was born August 9, 1857, in this state, her parents being John G. and Elizabeth Price. Mr. and Mrs. Gray are the parents of four children: Laura E., born March 12, 1882; Mattie B., born September 19, 1883; Samuel P., November 24, 1885, and Frank S., who was born September 27, 1898. The family are regular attendants at the First Presbyterian church of Findlay, in which both parents hold membership.

FRANK C. RAY.

Frank C. Ray, city clerk and one of the younger business men of Findlay, by his alertness and energy is winning his way in the world, and has many friends both in public and social life. He comes of good stock, his ancestry for several generations having been natives of Ohio. His grandfather, Allen Ray, was born in Columbiana county in 1817. At that time the settlements were few and far between, the country was only beginning to be laid out in farms, wild animals were plentiful and the skins valuable. Allen Ray was a trader in furs, an active pioneer, and did his part in helping to develop the country. Later, he moved still farther west and settled in Hancock county, where he died in 1849.

Albert W. Ray, son of Allen, was born at Findlay in the same year that witnessed the death of his father, and his whole life was spent in his native town, with the exception of the time when he wore the "blue" and fought for the preservation of his country. He was a carriage maker by trade, and was in that business in Findlay from 1874 to 1896. In 1896 he was elected city clerk and served as such until his death in the year 1900. He was married in 1873 to Amanda, daughter of Daniel Cline, and they were the parents of five children, of whom four are still living as follows: Louisa K., wife of Chas. A. Keller, Frank C. (the subject of this sketch), Bess L., and Marie. Though a mere lad only fifteen years of age, he enlisted in 1864 as a private in the One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, when the troops were mustered out. He was the youngest soldier in the regiment. He participated in bat-

tles at Harper's Ferry and at Millersburg. His brother, Thomas J. Ray, now living at Houston, Texas, served throughout the war as a member of the Forty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was commanded by Colonel William Gibson.

Frank C. Ray was born in Findlay, Ohio, in 1876, and was there reared and educated, attending first the public schools, graduating from the high school in 1893, and later, Findlay College, from which he graduated in 1896. The next two years Mr. Ray employed in learning and working at the carriage painting trade, after which time he entered the service of the Eastern Ohio Gas Company at Canton, Ohio, as a clerk. He remained with that corporation about a year and then returned to Findlay, where he secured employment with the Bradford Oil Company, and so continued until April, 1900, when he was elected city clerk by the city council, the position his father had held before his death. Mr. Ray was married at Findlay, Ohio, in June, 1900, to Dorothy Bickham, daughter of Major Y. Bickham, and they have one little daughter, Elizabeth A. In his political views, Mr. Ray is a stanch Republican and an earnest worker for the interests of his party. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Elks and the First Methodist church of Findlay. Mr. Ray is a wide-awake, progressive young man, interested in his work, his home, his fraternal societies and well deserving of the success so far achieved in life.

WILLIAM KUHLMAN.

The above named gentleman, who is a worthy representative of the German-American citizenship of Hancock county, resides on a well cultivated farm of two hundred and forty acres in Allen township, and is extensively engaged in the raising of stock. Mr. Kuhlman was born in Hanover, Germany, December 28, 1844, remained in the fatherland until twenty-four years of age, gave cheerful and loyal obedience to the emperor and laid the foundation of a practical education and training which have served him well in his adopted country. Believing that there were great opportunities in the new world for the advancement of young men, he left the home of his youth and crossed the ocean to the great republic of which he had read with such interest in his boyhood days. He came to Hancock county and first located in Portage township, but in 1881 bought his present farm, the first installment of which was an eighty-acre tract. As he prospered, he added one hundred and sixty acres to this original purchase, and is now possessed of one of the best farms in Hancock county, which he is rapidly improving. In

1896 he erected new buildings, besides remodeled the old ones, and the farm is presenting a very attractive appearance under his guiding hand. Mr. Kuhlman had not been long in this country until he felt the advisability of establishing himself in a home of his own. His marriage was celebrated June 16, 1873, when he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine, the daughter of Aaron and Margaret Smith. To this union there have been born the following named children: George E., 1874; Aaron F., 1876; Clara M., deceased, 1878; Susan M., 1881; Charles W., 1883; James A., 1885; Nellie A., 1888; Edmund C., 1891; Lizzie O., 1893; Neil L., 1896; John K., 1900, deceased. Mrs. Kuhlman is a native of Marion township, where she was born October 14, 1856. Her parents came to this county from Germany in 1850. Mr. Kuhlman is a gentleman of excellent standing in his immediate neighborhood. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, but in the absence of his own organization, he and his family are faithful attendants of the Presbyterian church. He has held several of the township offices, and in every way has proved himself a loyal and worthy citizen of his adopted country.

JOHN H. MELLOTT.

The above named gentleman, who resides in Allen township on a well cultivated farm of fifty acres, is the son of Elijah and Jane (Kline) Mellott. The Mellotts came from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where the father was born in 1820, and the Klines are natives of the same county. Our subject's parents were reared in the state and county above mentioned and were there married in 1842. After spending four years in Ashland county they came in 1855 to Hancock county and located in Allen township, where they bought eighty acres of land and later added enough to make a handsome farm of one hundred and seventeen acres. Elijah Mellott is held in high esteem in the section where he resides, has filled several of the offices of the township and is respected by all. His wife died in 1891, after becoming the mother of eight children, of whom four are living. Elijah is the son of Obadiah and Katherine (Sipes) Mellott, both of whom were natives of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. On the paternal side the Mellotts are of English origin, while on the maternal side they are of German stock. Obadiah died in 1862 and his wife in 1859.

John H. Mellott, one of his father's four surviving children, was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, March 27, 1843, and was twelve years of age when his parents came to this state in 1855. He grew up amidst rural

scenes, and in the invigorating life of the farm developed that sturdiness of character which has always characterized him. Upon arriving at maturity, he bought his present farm, which he has continued to cultivate with success and has at different times added substantial improvements, his modern and commodious house having been erected in 1889. The biography of Mr. Mellott characterizes him as "a clean-cut practical man of the soil," and such he has proved himself to be in the various branches of agriculture. In 1869 he was united in marriage to Miss Rachel A. Crowel, a native of Stark county, Ohio, and born February 14, 1843.

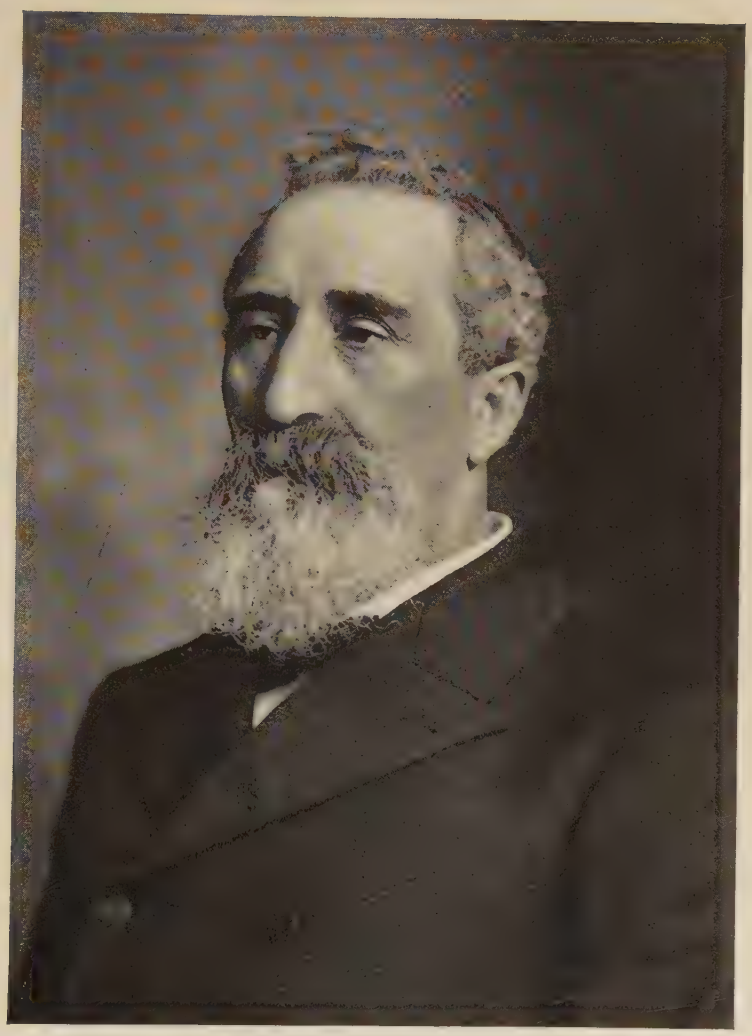
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mellott merit and receive the homage of a large circle of friends. He is a good citizen, a model farmer and such a man as benefits any community by association with it, and bravely accepts and faithfully fulfills the duties of life.

WILSON C. STOKER.

The above named is one of the children of Jacob and Mary R. (Pence) Stoker, whose family history is fully given in the sketch of their son Darius and need not be repeated at length. As therein stated three of the brothers served in the Union army and two of them, as the lamented Lincoln said at Gettysburg, "paid the last full measure of devotion that the nation might live." Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic at Findlay, is named in honor of the brothers who were killed on the field of battle at Stone river, and this is only one evidence of the high regard in which the Stoker family is and has long been held by the people of Hancock county. Since their father's arrival in 1845, there has been no time when the Stokers were not conspicuously identified with the county's farming interests and they have grown in wealth and influence, as well as numbers, from year to year during the last two generations.

Wilson C. Stoker, youngest of the children by his father's second marriage, was born in Hancock county, October 18, 1845, and as he grew up he received a common school education while learning farm work between terms. When he reached manhood he became a farmer on his own account and has achieved unusual success in this occupation. He is practical in his methods, progressive in business and thorough-going in everything relating to agricultural pursuits. As a result he at present owns two valuable farms in the county, consisting of three hundred and twelve acres, and on his land are found twenty-three producing oil wells. He ranks among the leading farmers of the county and is a representative citizen in every sense of that term.

Mrs. W. C. Stoker.



W C Stoker

Mr. Stoker was fortunate in the selection of a wife, to whose wise counsel and good management he owes much of his success. His marriage occurred December 30, 1869, the bride being Miss Katie, daughter of Jacob and Mary Grubbs, who was born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1846. This union, which proved happy and congenial in every way, resulted in the birth of three children: Laura M., David D., and Elmer O. David D. Stoker, the only one of the children now living, was born February 14, 1874, and was given a good education by his parents and teachers as he grew to manhood. April 25, 1901, he was united in marriage with Miss Ella M., daughter of Nelson and Hannah Altman, who are residents of Hancock county and the former one of the leading farmers of Marion township. Mr. Wilson C. Stoker's political affiliations are with the Republican party and he and wife are members of the United Brethren church. The family are among the best people of the county socially and no man enjoys higher reputation in the business world than Wilson C. Stoker.

JAMES DECKER.

There is no section of the great state of Ohio that is more noted for its fine farms than Hancock county, and there is no section of Hancock county that is under a better state of cultivation than Allen township. In this township lives the above worthy representative of a worthy family who have for many years been residents of the county, and have been honorably and intimately connected with its growth and progress. James Decker is the direct descendant of Mahlon and Minerva (Dull) Decker, the former born in New Jersey and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. They married in Pennsylvania, soon after came to Crawford county, Ohio, and after a short residence there removed to Hancock county in 1845. They purchased eighty acres of timber land in section 24 of Allen township, upon which they erected a comfortable log house that continued to be their home for twenty-five years. Here they engaged in the active work of subduing the wilds of nature, and it is remembered of the mother that, together with many other accomplishments that were necessary in that early day, she was an expert weaver, not only making all the clothing for the family, but doing a large amount of work for her neighbors. Mahlon Decker was a practical man, and succeeded by thrift and honest toil in accumulating three hundred acres of valuable land. He was stanch in his support of Republican principles, a consistent member of the Baptist church and sincerely mourned at his death, which occurred July 18, 1874. His widow still survives at the advanced age of

eighty-four years, in good general health of mind and body. They reared a family of eleven children, seven of whom are living and six residents of Hancock county.

James Decker, one of the surviving sons, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, January 16, 1837. He was a lad of but eight years when he came with his parents to Hancock county, where he was reared and received what little education was obtainable in the schools at that early day. His first purchase of real estate was in 1860, consisting of a tract of forty-six acres, to which he added at various times. In August, 1862, he responded to the call of President Lincoln for troops to save "Old Glory" from being trailed in the dust and became a private soldier of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He participated in a score of battles in the middle west, Mossy Creek and Resaca possibly being the most noted. At the latter battle he was so unfortunate as to receive a wound, after the healing of which he was honorably discharged in 1865. He has no regrets that he offered his life to save the constitution of the grandest country in the world. In January, 1861, he celebrated his marriage with Mary, daughter of John and Sarah Barnd, who were early settlers of Hancock county. Mrs. Mary Decker was born in Allen township in 1838, and of her eight children the following named are living: Edward, C. A., L. B., M. C., G. H. and Sidney O. The beautiful modern brick residence of Mr. Decker, where he and his family delight to entertain their numerous friends, was built in 1879. Mr. Decker is a popular gentleman in the community, having held a number of the township offices. He is a consistent member of the old school Baptist church, of which he has been clerk for a number of years. In connection with his active work on the farm he looks after the product of twenty oil wells, seven of which he drilled. Mr. Decker was treasurer of the Hancock Gas & Oil Company, the first to open up the North Findlay pool. In 1889 they drilled the first well and this became the most productive locality in the county. He has one hundred and forty acres of land, on which there are twenty-five producing oil wells at this writing. Mr. Decker is a member of Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Findlay, and one of the best known as well as most highly esteemed man in the county.

HENRY FRANKS.

Henry Franks is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Hancock county, where his father was at one time an extensive owner of real estate, having been in possession of two thousand acres. Mr. Franks

lives in Allen township, where he cultivates a farm of one hundred and ninety acres, the methods which he uses producing one of the finest farm properties in the county. His father, John Franks, was one of Hancock county's early pioneers and a man of wonderful resources. He was enterprising, honest, industrious and possessed of large and liberal views concerning life. He had a passion for the accumulation of real estate, selecting his locations with great business sagacity and foresight. This land was afterward disposed of by sale and by division among his children, who have since made good use of their inheritance. Mr. Franks was married twice, his first wife being Sarah Musgrove, who bore him eight children and died in June, 1843. His second wife was Betsie Fast, who presented him with five children, and seven of the two sets are now living. John Franks was a member of the United Brethren church, and supported the principles of government formulated by that great disciple of Democracy, Thomas Jefferson. He died August 9, 1880, and his last wife passed away June 30, 1902.

Henry Franks, a son by the first marriage, was born in Cass township, December 8, 1842, and six months later lost his mother by death. He was reared and schooled in Cass township, passed his life in agricultural pursuits, and has resided on the present farm for the past thirty-two years. In August 1868, he was united in marriage to Mahala Allard, and their union has been blessed with ten children, eight of whom are living: John W., Catherine B., Andrew J., Charles H., Ella, Mary, David W. and Eliza. The mother of these children is a native of Ohio, and her birth occurred in 1848. Mr. Franks is a quiet, unostentatious, but loyal citizen, seeking no honors himself, but taking delight in placing in office the best man regardless of party affiliation. He, however, inclines to Democratic principles. He is an industrious and honest citizen, and in Hancock county is universally recognized and honored for his many good traits of character.

J. A. NUSSER.

Wherever the stranger goes in Hancock county he finds a very large sprinkling of gray heads among the farming element, but there are a number of young and enterprising men who have resisted the wiles of city life and are following nobly in the footsteps of their fathers. It is a mistaken idea that farming has become a lost art. There is just as much material prosperity to be had in the country as there is in the city. The only point necessary to remember is that the farmer of to-day must keep in mind the fact that he is living in a progressive age, that he cannot scratch the ground

with a forked stick and plant his corn by hand as was the custom in the early day. The use of modern machinery and the adoption of intensive methods of farming, coupled, of course, always, with hard work, will win in this day just as readily as the old methods won in their day, all of which is being realized by this enterprising and up-to-date young farmer whose worthy name heads this paragraph. Mr. Nusser was born in Findlay, Ohio, November 14, 1872, and was reared in Allen township, where he closely applied himself to his studies during his minority and laid the foundation of his education. His book learning has been the lesser part, for he is a man of observant mind and intelligent comprehension, and has thus added a later equipment that makes him a very useful and worthy citizen. From his boyhood he was inclined to the free and independent life of the farmer, and when he arrived at the years of maturity he entered upon agricultural pursuits. He bought his present home in 1899. It consists of eighty acres, which he is gradually bringing into a high state of cultivation, rapidly adding new buildings and improvements of the kind suitable to a modern Ohio farm. Of him his biographer states: "Mr. Nusser is a young man who will not be satisfied to sit on the bottom round of the ladder. His motto is, 'Plenty of room at the top.'"

Mr. Nusser is a son of J. J. and Mary Nusser, his father having been a native of Findlay, and his mother of Allen township. She died in 1880, having been the mother of seven children: Lucretia; Quinn; J. A., our subject; Caroline, deceased; Frederick; Mammie; and Edna.

Mr. Nusser had barely reached his majority when, on November 12, 1893, he led to the altar Miss Blanche, the accomplished daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Swab. Mrs. Nusser was born November 25, 1873. (See sketch of family on another page). Mr. and Mrs. Nusser have had two children, one who died in infancy, and Dorothy E., born July 9, 1900. They are popular members of society in their immediate neighborhood, where the genial, pleasant manner of Mr. Nusser has made him popular among a host of friends.

JOHN H. GRUBB.

John H. Grubb, brother of Cyrus and youngest son of Jacob Grubb, now holds a two-third interest in the fine tract of farming land once owned by his father, and which save the first six years of his life has always been his home.

Mr. Grubb was born February 17, 1857, on what is now the D. L.

Norris farm in Marion township, this county. In 1863 his parents moved to Liberty township where John received a common school education, and where in due time he added his efforts to those of his father in wresting from nature a free and safe means of livelihood.

In selecting a helpmate for life, he chose one of nature's daughters, a young woman who knew what life on a farm meant and who has fulfilled her highest mission by making for him a happy home.

On November 8, 1884, Mr. Grubb married Miss Sallie Cusac, who was born as the daughter of James M. and Rachel Cusac, on a farm in Liberty township on Blanchard river, September 15, 1858. Their union was blessed by two children: Gail G., born in August, 1893, and Mack, born December 25, 1896. The family are members of the Presbyterian church, enjoying the esteem of a large circle of friends.

Through untiring industry Mr. Grubb has become a prosperous and independent business man. Upon the land operated by him there are twenty-five producing oil wells.

Other details concerning the family record will be found in the biographies of Cyrus Grubb and James M. Cusac.

WILLIAM THOMAS.

William Thomas is a well known and respected citizen of Findlay, the son of one of the first settlers of the county. His father was Charles Thomas, a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, who removed to Tyler county, Virginia, where he married Mary Ripley; she became the mother of fourteen children, ten of whom grew to maturity and two of this number are now living, Narcissa W. and William. Charles Thomas lived the uneventful but eminently useful life of the practical farmer. The farm which he tilled is still in the Thomas family, and has been continously since its first possession by them in 1831. Charles Thomas endured all the hardships incident to pioneer life, receiving many friendly visits from his red brother, the Indian, and it might be added many hostile visits from his more vicious brother, the wolf. When he first came to Hancock county, the town of Findlay consisted of but sixteen houses. They were principally of the block house variety, so built for the purpose of defense from the unfriendly tribes of red men which then surrounded the town.

William Thomas was born in Tyler county, Virginia, on April 2, 1827, and until middle life always followed the pursuit of farming. His labors were attended with such success that in 1879 he was able to retire from active

labor, and purchasing a home in Findlay he removed to the city where he now resides. During his active life on the farm he was honored with most all of the township offices by his fellow citizens which he administered in a worthy manner.

In religious faith he is a believer in the tenets held by the Methodist Episcopal denomination, in which organization he has labored during all of his lifetime, holding many offices of trust. He has held the office of steward for the past twenty years. Mr. Thomas began his domestic life on the thirty-first of October, 1850, when he married Miss Sidney, the daughter of John and Margaret Paden. The marriage proved a most felicitous one, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have passed a long life of connubial happiness. To this union were born five children: Mary M., Margaret J., Kate, Lezettie and Fannie, the latter being deceased. The mother was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on December 2, 1833. Her father, John Paden, was born in Ireland and his wife in Ohio.

Mr. Thomas, as must be supposed, is one of the well known men of the county, having passed almost the entire period of his life in this part of the state. He is a worthy representative, though now retired, of that calling which Washington said is the most useful and honorable to which man devotes his energies.

DAVID THOMAS.

The family of which the above named gentleman is an honored representative, is one of the pioneer families of Hancock county. Henry Thomas and his half-brother, James, were the first of the name to settle in the county, the date of their arrival being as early as 1834. They were natives of Ireland, where Henry was born November 21, 1781, and emigrated to this country in 1816. September 17, 1811, he was united in marriage to Jane Stranahan, and their first three children, William, John and Mary J., were born before they left their native country. Henry and Sarah were natives of Pennsylvania, while Samuel L., the youngest, was born in Wayne county, Ohio. Henry Thomas died October 14, 1865, and his wife in 1852. Henry entered from the government one hundred and sixty acres of land, which was at that time in its primitive wildness, and which he cleared during his lifetime. He was a man of moderate education, but of fine judgment and keen foresight. In his native land he had learned the weaver's trade, but after he came to America abandoned it for agricultural pursuits. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian, and gave his support to the policies of the Whig party.

His son Henry, father of David Thomas, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, November 8, 1819, and was but fifteen years of age when he came to Hancock county with his parents. He passed an entire lifetime in agricultural pursuits, and in this vocation he was very successful. He purchased eighty acres of land from his father, on which he continued to reside until his death, which occurred October 4, 1891. In 1843, he married Elizabeth Shoemaker, who was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, on the fourth of February, 1826, and the results of this marriage were the following named children: Sarah J., born in 1844; Mary A., 1846; John, 1847; Margaret, 1850; Andrew, 1853; David, September 12, 1855; Ellen, 1857; Henry, 1860; Ira, 1863. The father of this family was a man whose reputation stood high for probity with his neighbors and whose character was above reproach. He was bold and positive in his assertions, and lived up to his convictions of right and duty. He, as his father before him, was a consistent and earnest member of the Presbyterian church, in which organization he was for many years a deacon. Politically he gave allegiance to the Republican party during nearly all his life, though toward the close he was more particularly interested in the matter of temperance, on which question he felt the Republican party did not give entire satisfaction. After a long and useful life, and mourned by a host of friends, he died October 4, 1891. His wife survived him about six years and died April 1, 1897.

David Thomas, son of Henry and Elizabeth, was born on his father's fram in Hancock county, Ohio, and reared to manhood in his native township of Big Lick. He received a good elementary education and in early life followed portable wood-sawing and threshing, but his employment later, for several years, consisted in the pressing and shipping of hay. He owned one hundred and seventy acres of land, ninety-seven of which he sold in 1902, and is now on account of failing health not actively engaged in the rougher work of farming. The marriage of Mr. Thomas was celebrated November 6, 1879, the lady of his choice being Miss Ella, daughter of William K. and Martha J. Leonard. Mrs. Thomas is a native of the county, having been born at Findlay, December 22, 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are adherents of the Presbyterian faith, in which organization Mr. Thomas is an active worker, being at the present time an elder. They have no children.

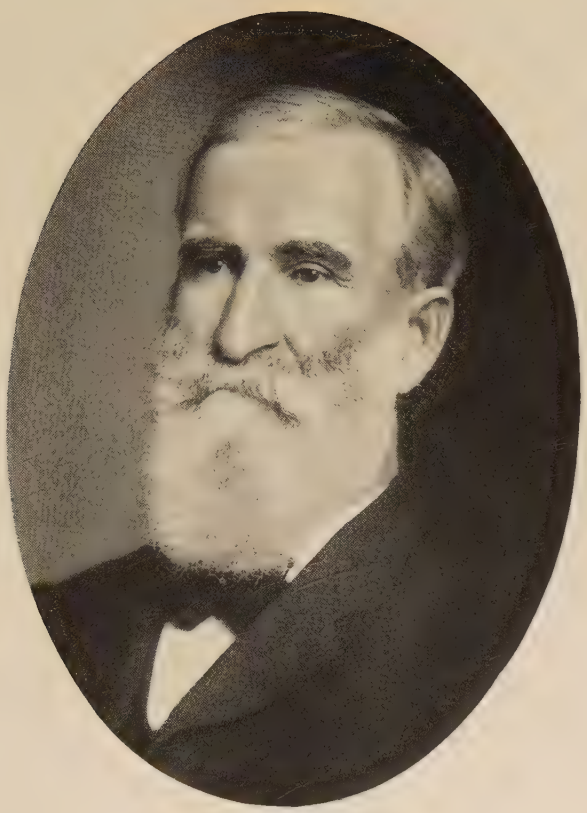
The family of which Mrs. Thomas is a member deserves more than a passing notice. Her father, William K. Leonard, was born in Columbiana county in 1821, and spent the early part of his adult life as a school teacher, making a fine reputation as a member of that profession. He followed that occupation until 1863, when he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits.

He also was an active worker in the Presbyterian church, and for many years was an elder. Indeed, in early life he had very serious intentions of being ordained to the ministry, and only the consideration of poor health changed his determination. His marriage to Martha J. Moorhead occurred December 15, 1853, and their children were: Edgar H., Francis E., Melissa, Samuel M., deceased, John M., Mary A., deceased, Margaret M., deceased and Robert W. It is worthy of note that John M. Leonard, the third son, spent five years as a missionary of the Presbyterian church in Japan, but his health failing he was obliged to return to his native country, where he is now actively engaged in the ministry in the state of Kansas. The father of this family died October 22, 1890. Robert Leonard, grandfather of Mrs. Thomas, removed from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Hancock county in 1837. He married Frances Bayless and the children born to them were: Elizabeth, Samuel, Silas, William K., Abner and Mary A. Robert Leonard died May 4, 1867, his wife having preceded him some fourteen years. Thus ends the record of two of Hancock county's most estimable families, the representative of which at the present day are held in the highest esteem by all.

DARIUS R. STOKER.

The Stokers, now one of the strong and prosperous family connections of Hancock county, have been identified with the county's affairs for more than half a century. The paternal ancestors were of German origin, and the first of the name who appeared in America was John Stoker, who eventually found his way to the west. His son, Jacob Stoker, was born in Perry county, Ohio, June 29, 1806, but in early life located in Fairfield county, where he remained a number of years. In 1845 he came to Hancock county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he subsequently added eighty acres, and all of this he cleared and improved by his own labor. He was a fine specimen of the sturdy pioneer, of evenly balanced character, industrious habits and not to be discouraged by any kind of hardships. Eventually he succeeded in converting his originally wild land into a good estate, which increased in value as the years went by and made a comfortable inheritance for his descendants. By a marriage in 1828, with Elizabeth Hartsock, he had a daughter named Athelinda. The first wife dying, he was married March 4, 1830, to Mary R. Pence, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 4, 1812. The children by this second union were: David P., born January 4, 1831; Tunis A., September 4, 1832; Dicy R., February 21, 1834; Darius R., December 27, 1836; Cyrus H., born July 19, 1839;

Mary M. Stoker



D. R. Stöker

Mary J., November 22, 1841; and Wilson C. Jacob Stoker died February 28, 1866, and his wife on July 14, 1889. Three of their sons entered the Union service during the Civil war and made highly honorable military records, two of them sealing their devotion with their lives. Darius and David enlisted September 19, 1861, in Company F, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and their brother Cyrus joined the same command a year later. They took part with their regiment in the bloody battle of Stone River, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in the early days of 1863, and fared badly as a result of the desperate fighting. Cyrus was killed on the battlefield and David was so badly wounded that he lingered but a short time after the battle. Darius also received a wound, but recovered, and at the end of two years' service was honorably discharged.

After returning from the army Darius R. Stoker engaged in farm work, and pursued it with such success as to eventually gain standing as one of the leading farmers of his county. At the present time he owns one hundred and forty-three acres of good land in Liberty township, which is well improved as to buildings, fences and other adjuncts of an up-to-date farm, and this estate is managed and cultivated by Mr. Stoker according to the best modern methods of scientific agriculture. October 13, 1863, Mr. Stoker was married to Miss Mary M. Strother, who comes of a noted old Virginia family that is deserving of more than a passing notice. John and Anna Strother, who came from Virginia to Licking county, Ohio, in 1818, had a family of seven children. One son, Isaac J. Strother, who came to Ohio at the same time, engaged in farming and achieved success in that line. By his first marriage, with Hannah Beardsley, he had one daughter named Eliza Ann. In March, 1838, his second marriage took place, with Elizabeth Hall, by whom he had six children: Mary M. (now Mrs. D. R. Stoker), Amos B., Caroline V., Absalom H., Lucy D. and Emily T. Mrs. Stoker's mother died in August, 1866, and her father in 1868.

The union of Darius R. and Mary M. (Strother) Stoker resulted in the birth of four children. Clemma A., the eldest of these, was married in 1892 to Frank P. DeBrandt, and has three children. Viola M., second child of Mr. and Mrs. Stoker, became the wife of Aeneas Collingwood in 1892. Luella D., the third of the family in order of birth, was married in 1894 to Nelson C. Altman, and has four children. Arthur H., youngest child and only son of Mr. and Mrs. Stoker, was married in 1900 to Frankie D. Ullom. The family attend religious services at the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Stoker is a trustee, and for ten years was superintendent of the Sunday-school, in which he took much interest. It should be added as a matter of

pathetic interest and showing the regard in which this family is held that Stoker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Findlay, is named in honor of the brother killed at the battle of Stone River.

GEORGE S. PENDLETON.

George S. Pendleton has inherited to some extent the roving nature of his paternal grandfather, James, who for several years in early life followed navigation on the Great Lakes. George has devoted his life mainly to farming, an occupation in itself very quiet, yet he has not been content to remain fixed to one place. He has made several changes in location; seven of his younger years were spent in the wilds of California and Nevada, where he gave himself up to extensive stock-raising.

In Putnam county, this state, he has spent twenty-nine years, and while there acquired a title to one hundred and twenty-four acres of good farming land. He also held the office of township trustee during his residence there.

George S. Pendleton was born in Findlay, January 1, 1845. In 1868 he married Mary Anderson, who died in 1901. The couple had three children: Harriet, born in August, 1869; Lucinda, born in 1871; and Louisa, born in 1873. Mr. Pendleton received his education and early training in Findlay. His father was Joel Pendleton, a man of exceeding popularity and superior school advantages. His life has been one of varied experiences and his genial nature, robust physique and hardy outdoor habits insured for him a ripe old age. He was born in the state of Maine, January 26, 1812; and died Mary 12, 1894. He belonged to a family of twelve children, of whom one only survives. His parents were James and Elizabeth Pendleton who were born in 1783 and in 1784 respectively. During the latter part of their lives they resided in Licking county, Ohio.

Joel was but eight years old when he first came to this state. He received a very good education, studied civil engineering and later took up the business of surveying in connection with farming. In 1835 he removed to this county, entered eighty acres of government land in Blanchard township, worked and kept possession of it for almost eighteen years. In 1853 he came to what was then Findlay township, purchased several acres of land and increased his estate from time to time until he owned seventy acres. Here his widow Amy still lives. She was a native of Vermont, born there May 8, 1815. She was married to Mr. Pendleton on November 22, 1832. Eight of eleven children are living. They are: Anna, born in 1835; Lucinda, born in 1842; George S., born January 1, 1845; Joel W., born in 1848;

Mary E., born in the year 1851; Harriet A., born in 1853; Louise, born in 1856, and Charles F., born in 1859.

Joel Pendleton belonged to the United Brethren church and in politics was a Democrat. He always had the best interests of his country at heart and was extremely popular with the younger element of the community, for he taught school for several years after his removal to Hancock county. As an indication of his popularity and the confidence placed in him by the voters of the county may be mentioned the fact that for over forty years he held the office of county surveyor.

JOHN C. KAGEY.

After a long life of usefulness and work in which he has established and successfully conducted several different mercantile enterprises, Mr. John C. Kagey is able to spend the remainder of his years in comfort, free from the care and work of his earlier life. He was born on a farm in Richland (now Ashland) county in this state in 1831, in which county he lived and received his education until 1862, in which year he went to Ashland, Ohio, where he started in the grocery business. In 1865 he disposed of this business and became a lumber merchant, which he carried on until 1894, at which time he moved to Findlay. After settling in Findlay he again opened a grocery store, which he conducted for a number of years, though he is now retired.

Mr. Kagy married Elizabeth Kohler, and their union has been blessed with four children, who are: Cora, wife of William Beach; William M.; Tully J., Frederick G.

Mr. Kagey is an adherent of the Democratic party, and he is also one of the strong body of Masons of Findlay. He does not affiliate with any church.

B. F. BIBLER.

B. F. Bibler, a farmer and proprietor of the Jackson township poultry yards, is one of those prosperous and able men who began at the bottom of the ladder and by energy, business push and integrity have worked their way up until they now occupy a respected place in the business world. The parents of this gentleman were Samuel and Elizabeth (Empfield) Bibler, the former born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. The birth of B. F. Bibler occurred in Fairfield county on the 10th of October, 1855, and there, after the manner of all boys in the rural

regions, he received his early training in the schools and on the farm. He pursued farming as his chosen vocation and remained at home until 1875, when he rented a farm and carried on his business until 1897. In that year he bought his present farm of eighty acres, which he cultivated for two years and then started his poultry business. In this most pleasant of occupations he is meeting with eminent success; his pure strains of White Plymouth Rock and Buff Plymouth Rock chickens not only being his own pride but accounted by other good judges the best in the country. His yards and pens are well kept and arranged, and the general surroundings are such as to indicate a man of thrift and industry, while his birds show care and painstaking in their breeding. He is modern and progressive in many ways, departing from the well worn paths of his forefathers and marking out a course of his own. He has natural gas wells on his farm, from which he gets fuel for his stoves, and heats his poultry pens with the same fuel.

Mr. Bibler was happily married on November 17, 1880, to Selina Swab, a daughter of Solomon and Catherine Swab, who was born March 6, 1868. They are the parents of two sons: Benjamin C., born in 1883; and Charles E., born in 1893. Mr. Bibler is a member of the Jackson Grange, and his life has been such as to command the esteem and regard of the whole community. As he is now in his prime it would be safe to predict for him still greater success as the result of his future endeavors.

FREDERICK J. KARG.

Among the successful and respected business men of Findlay, Ohio, is Frederick J. Karg, a member of the firm of Karg Brothers, meat dealers, who carry on a business which was established in this city by his father in 1852.

The birth of Mr. Karg was in Findlay, Ohio, in 1854, and he is a son of Carl August Emanuel Karg, who was born in Germany, in 1829. At the time of the latter's emigration to America, he was twenty years of age. He settled for two years in New York city and then removed to Findlay, Ohio, where he opened a meat business in 1852. With energy and industry this business was made to prosper, and as his sons grew up, Mr. Karg admitted some of them to the business, and in 1887 he felt that he could retire from activity, knowing that it was in excellent hands. He is a staunch Republican and he has served in the city council.

A family of five sons and two daughters was born to Mr. and Mrs. Karg, as follows: Elizabeth, the wife of J. D. Klentsche; Frederick J., of

this sketch; August C.; Charles A.; Minnie, the wife of William Hull; Albert E. and William.

Frederick J. Karg obtained a good common school education in Findlay, and at the age of sixteen entered his father's meat market where he learned the trade. In 1887, with two of his brothers, the present well-known firm of Karg Brothers was formed, which supplies a large part of the city with its choicest meat. In 1877 our subject was married to Miss Eliza Mills, who is a daughter of James Mills, and they have one daughter, Eva.

In politics Mr. Karg, like his father, is a Republican. He belongs to the order of the Knights of Pythias, No. 400, while the religious connection of the family is with the Lutheran church. He is well and favorably known in Findlay, and is considered an honest and enterprising business man and an excellent citizen.

FREDRICK SUTTER.

During his residence there of twenty-two years, the above named gentleman has been about the busiest man in the village of Vanlue. He has looked after three hundred acres of land, manufactured tile and brick and ran a mill, which "made things hum" by the noisy revolutions which turned off lumber by the thousands of feet a day. Mr. Sutter, however, is not doing all these things at present, having reached that condition of financial independence which makes over exertion unnecessary, still he is a controlling figure in Amanda township and consulted as one of its best informed as well as most enterprising citizens. A word or two about his life and character and those from whom he is descended will not therefore be inappropriate in a volume devoted to the representative men of Hancock county.

The family is of Swiss origin and founded in this country by Fredrick and Fannie Sutter. This couple was married in Switzerland in the early thirties, but after striving for a decade or two in their native land decided that emigration to far distant America held out a promise of improvement in their fortunes. It was in 1852 that this resolution was carried into effect and the newly arrived immigrants, after the usual trials and tribulations of poor travelers, found themselves settled at Sandusky City, Ohio. As Fredrick was an industrious and hardworking man, all went well and he was accumulating some means until an unfortunate accident disabled him for work and eventuated in his death in 1854. By two marriages there were five children, three by the first and two by the second, all of whom are living.

Fredrick Sutter, Jr., one of the children by his father's first marriage,

was born in Switzerland in 1835 and consequently was about eighteen years old when his parents emigrated to this country. He remained at Sandusky City until his father's death when he entered the employment of a railroad company whose lines extended through that part of Ohio. He remained at work with this company about ten years, afterward worked a while as a mill hand and later removed to Hancock county, where he purchased an eighty acre farm in Amanda township. This tract, only half of which was cleared, was held two years by Mr. Sutter for speculative purposes and then disposed of at a profit. In 1865 Mr. Sutter bought another tract of eighty acres, fifty of which were cleared, and made other deals as buyer and seller until the outcome was his present holding of three hundred acres in Amanda and Liberty townships. In 1880 he removed to Vanlue and three years later purchased his present home and mill property at the same time starting a tile and brick manufactory. He continued the last mentioned feature for six years, but finding it unprofitable, abandoned the manufacture of tile and brick and confined himself to making lumber. In addition to his other machinery, he put in a planer and has thus considerably extended his business by converting his ray material into finished product.

In 1861 he was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Shoup, but the only child of this union died in infancy and the mother passed away in 1875. In 1877, Mr. Sutter married Mrs. Cornelia Leader, who was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1836, and by her he has an only son named Charles. Though not a member of any church, Mr. Sutter believes that the carrying out of the golden rule embodies "all the law and the prophets." His fraternal connections are confined to membership in the Independent Order of Odd Felows. In conclusion it is but just to remark that Fredrick Sutter is a self-made man in the best sense of that word. Beginning life without means and little education, he now contemplates retiring from active business with a comfortable competence. Still more important as testimony of his qualities is the fact that his neighbors have implicit confidence both in his integrity and judgment and often consult him concerning difficulties of a private as well as public nature.

NORMAN L. MACLACHLAN, M. D.

It is not unusual in this work-a-day world to see young men having their own way to make, doing various odd jobs to earn a penny for the purpose of completing their education, and all honor should be paid them. That which is not worth great sacrifice would be a poor position indeed. These are the

sentiments of the gentleman here named, and he comes honestly by them, for his own experience was in consonance with them. The family of which Dr. Maclachlan is a member came from Scotland, the first member of which he has any authentic information being his grandfather, Donald Maclachlan, who was born in Argyleshire, in 1760, and died there in 1850. He married Agnes McFarlan and reared a family, of which our subject's father, Alexander Maclachlan, was the eighth child. He was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, on the nineth of June, 1809, and in 1840 came to Canada, where he settled in Middlesex county, province of Ontario. The Maclachlans have always been agricultural people, and Alexander was engaged in the occupation of farming for a number of years in Canada, where he reared a family of ten children, all of whom are living except the youngest, who died in childhood. Later he moved into Michigan, where he died in 1879. He had married Mary, the daughter of John Black, also a native of Scotland and a gauger by profession. His father, John Black, was born in Scotland, and lived out his days in that country.

The gentleman whose name forms the immediate subject of this sketch and who is a physician of excellent standing in the medical circles of Findlay, Ohio, was born in Middlesex county, Ontario, November 26, 1854. From that section of the country he removed with his parents in May, 1861, to Argyle, Sanilac county, Michigan, where he passed the entire period of his youth and young manhood to the age of twenty. There he received such educational advantages as were to be had in the schools of a new country at that period, in the meantime doing an immense amount of physical labor, for his parents were not of the wealthy class. The youth was imbued with the idea that he would get an education at whatever cost, and at the age of fourteen began working in the lumber camps in the winter and attending school during the summers. Any one who has any knowledge of the exceedingly severe physical labor exacted of employes in the lumber camps will have some idea of the sacrifice and immense pains young Maclachlan put forth in order to receive his education. Often it was necessary to stand in icy water, waist deep, in order to perform his part of the work in getting timber down the Cass river. He, however, persevered and is now able to look back to that time with a certain degree of satisfaction. Deciding upon the medical profession as his life work, he entered the office of Dr. William H. Greene, at Cass City, Michigan, where he read medicine under his direction for a period of one year. Having then saved sufficient money to enable him to attend college, he went to Ann Arbor, where he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, succeeding in keeping himself steadily in the

course until his graduation on the 27th of March, 1878. Returning to the locality where he was best known at Cass City, Michigan, he began practice at that point, and for eleven years was so engaged, during which time it was necessary to make long drives over inferior roads and in all kinds of weather. Leaving that section in February, 1889 he came to Findlay, where he has since been engaged in practice. Dr. Maclachlan takes a very active interest in the public life of the communities in which he happens to reside, having served as mayor of Cass City, Michigan, during the years 1883 and 1884, and from 1892 until 1898 was a member of the common council of Findlay, while for two years of that period he was president of that body. He was appointed a member of the board of United States pension examining surgeons by President McKinley in October, 1897, and upon the organization of this board the doctor was elected its secretary, which position he is now filling. He is also the local surgeon for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad and the Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western companies, and the surgeon for the Findlay city hospital.

Dr. Maclachlan was married on the 27th of November, 1878, in Blenheim, Ontario, to Emma, the daughter of John Jackson, now deceased, and to this union one child was born, Ethel May. In matters pretaining to medical science the doctor is awake to the interests of his profession, and belongs to the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, to the Ohio State Medical Society and to the Hancock county Medical Society, in the latter of which he was president and is now vice-president. In matters fraternal he is a member of the Masonic Order and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having filled all the chairs in the latter organization. In political life Dr. Maclachlan is a stanch Republican and delights in the active work of his party, and whatever he is able to do in advancing the principles of that party in the minds of the people is done with alacrity and in the most cheerful spirit. Findlay is fortunate in possessing among her citizens a physician of the standing of Dr. Maclachlan, who is always awake to her interests.

JOSEPH P. BAKER, M. D.

Though a resident of Findlay only twelve years the subject of this sketch has already established himself so firmly in his profession as to make the future seem assured. His rise has been rapid, but only a natural result that follows careful preliminary preparation, backed by continuous study and a close attention to business. There is no mystery about it, however, it simply being another case of American vim and energy, supported by an honorable

J. P. Baker, M. D.

ambition directed by educated intelligence. These are factors which usually secure success, even under the most adverse circumstances, and their display has certainly brought Dr. Baker to the front rank among the practitioners of northwestern Ohio, while also giving him a leading place in other lines allied to his professional work. If these compliments should seem strained to any one, this impression will be dispelled by a reading of the biographical details which follow and which amply justify the eulogistic tone of the opening sentences.

Joshua C. Baker, a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, has spent his life mostly in the combined occupations of farming and teaching. In 1863 he married Clarissa A. Moorhead, by whom he had six children, and one of these became the popular physician at Findlay with whom this biography is concerned. Joseph P. Baker was born at Fostoria, Ohio, June 9, 1864, and was an infant when his parents removed to Hancock county, where they have since resided. During his boyhood he attended school in the neighborhood of his father's farm in Portage and later at Findlay, and this educational process continued until he had reached the sixteenth year of his age. He then made his first business venture as a teacher in the schools of Wood county, Ohio, in which occupation he continued for seven consecutive years. At the end of this time he came to Findlay and began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. Anson Hurd, one of the oldest physicians in point of practice in Hancock county. In 1888 he entered Starling Medical College, at Columbus, Ohio, and applied himself diligently to the course of study there until his graduation in the class of 1890. Dr. Baker was quite popular at Starling, both with the faculty and the students, and at the close of the term was honored by being made president of the graduating class. Immediately after leaving college he located at Findlay and entered actively upon the practice of his profession. In 1894 he attended the New York Polyclinic, and three years later took a post-graduate course in New York with a view to keeping himself abreast of all the new discoveries in every branch of medical science. His professional ability, aided by his gentlemanly bearing and genial address, soon fixed Dr. Baker firmly as one of the features in the social and business growth of Findlay. His popularity has been proved in many ways, as will be shown by an enumeration of the honors and promotions conferred upon him at different times. Shortly after locating at Findlay Dr. Baker was admitted as a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and served as secretary of that body from 1895 until 1902. At the annual meeting of the association in the year last mentioned Dr. Baker was unanimously elected president, an honor which is a sure index of the es-

teem in which he is held in this section of the state. Speaking of this election, the Findlay Courier, published in his home town, thus commented: "Dr. Baker has always been a very successful figure in his profession, and the fact that so young a man as he has been elected to the presidency of the association stands as quite a compliment." Dr. Baker is also a member of the Hancock County Medical Society, the Ohio State Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the Order of Railway Surgeons. From 1890 until 1893 he served on the pension board of Hancock county, and is at present the local surgeon of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company at Findlay. In addition to this he has served six years as local physician of the Orphans' Home at Findlay, and holds the chair of obstetrics in the Findlay City Hospital. He is also the leading examining surgeon at Findlay for a number of life and accident insurance companies.

On the social and fraternal side of life we find Dr. Baker filling a role in keeping with his professional prominence. His classmates at the old alma mater have never forgotten the student days, and in 1901 he was elected president of the Alumni Association, in addition to an appointment as one of the censors of the college. In 1891 Dr. Baker was created a Master Mason in Findlay Lodge, No. 227; is a member of Findlay Chapter, No. 58, Council No. 50, Findlay Commandery No. 49; was made a Scottish Rite Mason in 1898, at Cleveland, Ohio, and is a member of Zenobia Temple at Toledo. He is also a member of Findlay Lodge, No. 88, Knights of Pythias, Findlay Lodge, No. 75, of the Elks, and Hancock Lodge, No. 73, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, though he has not been an aspirant for official honors, aside from such as are appropriate to his profession. May 25, 1892, he was happily married to Miss Harriet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwartz, and with his wife enjoys a cordial welcome in the best society at Findlay.

OTTA B. MARVIN.

Though a young man and only in business about eleven years, the subject of this sketch has gained the title of the "popular jeweler" of Findlay. This complimentary designation he has earned and deserved, as well on account of his skill in the cunning workmanship required in his trade as by strict attention to business and courtesy to customers. The family is of Pennsylvania origin, Ancie E. Marvin having been born in that state in 1836 and sought a home in Ohio where he lived until the time of his death. At the opening of the Civil war he enlisted as a private in the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio

Volunteer Infantry, with which he served loyally for two years. He married Margaret T. Hollawell, by whom he had six children, and of these the five survivors are thus named: Amanda J., wife of J. N. Feller; Charles W.; Leonard A.; Otta B. and Frank J. The mother of this family died in 1895 and the father, after surviving her a few years, passed away in 1899. Otta B. Marvin, the fourth child in order of birth, was born on a farm in Marion township, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1868. He was brought to Findlay in infancy and there grew up while receiving his education in the city schools. Being naturally ambitious, and having no rich relatives to help him, young Marvin began to look around at an early age for a means to insure a livelihood and lay a basis for future fortune. His inclinations were along the line of mechanics and his preference for the jeweler's trade. Accordingly, when only seventeen years old he took the necessary steps to qualify himself for the calling decided upon as his life work. Having learned the details and niceties of the jeweler's art, he opened a store at Findlay in 1891 and no working day since has found him absent from his post.

In 1889 Mr. Marvin led to the altar Miss Genevieve, the popular daughter of Henry C. Latham, the ceremony being performed at the parental residence in Findlay. Their household has been brightened by the births of three children: Helen E., Ancie L. and Margaret T. In politics Mr. Marvin affiliates with the Republican party, and gratifies his desire for fraternal fellowship by membership in the order of Elks.

WILLARD GEORGE.

It is the record of such men as Willard George that awakens the most interest, for in this country where no man is born to public honors or to public office, but where the road to these is that of usefulness and fidelity, warm commendation and interest is always elicited through the history of a self-made man who wins success and also gains the recognition of the public by reason of his fidelity to duty. Willard George is of this class. He is now one of the most trusted employes in the Ohio Rolling Mill, of Findlay, and is also a leader in Republican circles. He was born in Portage, Wood county, Ohio, in 1874, a son of Edwin George, who is now a coal merchant on the north side of this city, but for a number of years he was proprietor of a grocery store in the eastern part of Findlay. In 1875 he removed to Hancock county, settling on a farm near Mount Cory, and when our subject was four years of age the father removed with his family to Kansas and

afterward to Missouri. In 1889 he returned to this county and has since been a resident of Findlay, being a recognized factor in commercial circles.

Willard George was less than a year old when his parents first came to Findlay, and was a boy of four years when they removed to the west. When a youth of fifteen, after the return of the family to Hancock county, he entered the employ of the Findlay Rolling Mill Company as weigh boy, one of the most humble positions in the shops; but his close application, his ready mastery of the work entrusted to him and his fidelity constantly won him promotion. He worked in the forenoon, and in the afternoon, instead of spending his time idly, he attended the Findlay College, where he completed a business course. He then turned his entire attention to the mastery of his trade, and to-day he is recognized as one of the best workmen in the highest class of skilled labor in the iron trade, that of puddler, or converting the material from pig to wrought iron. His connection with the present firm covers three years, during which time he has enjoyed in a full measure the confidence of his employers and the respect of his associates. In fact, one of his fellow workmen said: "Not a man ever worked with him that was not his friend."

It is this man who has gained prominence in Republican circles, becoming one of the leaders in the party, and in the year 1902 he became his party's candidate for the office of mayor. He is a practical and progressive business man and in any position to which he might be called he would be found reliable, capable and trustworthy.

Mr. George enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war in May, 1898, becoming a member of Company D, Second Regiment of the United States Engineers, in the capacity of a private. He served for one year, spending five months of that time in Cuba. He has always been active in the work for the betterment of his fellow men, and no one has been more potent in the councils of the Pride of Findlay Lodge, No. 62, of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers, than he. Every office in the gift of the lodge has been his and he represented his lodge at the national convention in Milwaukee in 1901.

On the 1st of January, 1902, Mr. George was united in marriage in Findlay, Ohio, to Ida G. Hoover, daughter of David Hoover, of Putnam street. They are well known young people of this city and have a large circle of friends here. Mr. George is truly a self-made man, for starting out in life empty-handed in a humble business capacity, he has steadily worked his way upward until he is now a leading representative of the industrial interests of this city. He keeps well informed on the issues and

questions of the day, and his labors in behalf of the Republican party have been effective and far reaching. He well deserves the honor which came to him in his nomination and it is a well known fact that in office Mr. George would ever be found capable, just and faithful.

HIRAM D. KRABILL.

A family which has been intimately connected with the marvelous progress and development of Hancock county, and whose associations with it have always been of an honorable and upright character, is that represented by the gentleman whose name precedes this paragraph.

His grandfather, David Krabill, was a native of Stark county, Ohio, having first seen the light in that county November 3, 1806. He was the son of David and Mary Krabill. When he came to maturity he married Jemima Boden, the marriage occurring April 12, 1832. Jemima Boden was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in that state, in Cumberland county, December 22, 1812. They reared a family of children consisting of Augustus, deceased, born February 1, 1833; Jacob, September 4, 1834; Davis, July 7, 1836; Sara, January 29, 1839; Ann E., November 20, 1842; John W., November 29, 1846; Samuel D., August 23, 1849; Harriet, June 24, 1852; Hiram B., October 21, 1854; Irene J., June 21, 1858. David Krabill was a practical farmer, pursuing agriculture with eminent success, and lived to the advanced age of eighty years. He was an earnest supporter of the principles of religion as set forth by the Dunkard organization. His son Augustus was born in Seneca county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Davis in 1855. The union was productive of four children, two of whom are living: Hiram D., whose name heads this sketch, and Freeman Krabill, residing at present in Gratiot county, Michigan. The father owned and operated a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he had acquired by hard personal labor. He was a popular man in his day, was a scientific and practical agriculturist and a most loyal citizen. He served frequently in the minor offices of the community, for a number of terms having been justice of the peace, the duties of which office he discharged with credit to himself and to his constituents. He also was a member of the Dunkard church, and was highly respected for his upright and worthy character. After passing a useful life in the county of his adoption, and mourned by family and friends alike, he died in 1894. The wife survives him, being still hale and hearty at the age of eighty-seven years.

Hiram D. Krabill was born in Big Lick township October 5, 1860, where he was given the advantages of an excellent district school, and later took a course in the public schools of Findlay, finally finishing at Ashland College. For eight successive years after his graduation at Ashland College he acted as instructor in the schools of his native county. This, however, was not so much to his taste as the rural life of a farmer. He therefore ceased teaching, purchased a farm and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Krabill is a popular young man, and very active in supporting the principles of the Republican party. He was such an earnest and successful worker in the ranks of that organization that he was selected in 1900 to make the race for sheriff of the county on the Republican ticket. Hancock county is noted for its close contests, and never was there a more spirited one than occurred in that year. Owing to complications which Mr. Krabill and his associates could not forsee, he suffered defeat, but by only thirty-four votes. For the past twelve years he has been an efficient and active member of the school board of his township, the high character of the schools showing the quality of his efforts in that field. The farm upon which he now resides was purchased in 1881 by his father, and at the latter's death he inherited the property. His domestic life began in 1883, when he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Sara Hill. Of their four children only two are living: Arla P. and Lizzie R. Mrs. Krabill, who was a lady of refined and gentle character, died in 1892, and as a mother for his orphaned children Mr. Krabill chose Miss Rose L. Shapstein, the marriage occurring in 1894. The second wife is a native of Michigan, where she was born April 10, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Krabill are both consistent and earnest workers in what is known as the Progressive Dunkard church. They are respected residents of their community, and are esteemed for their many good qualities of heart and mind.

HUGH J. KEENAN.

Hugh J. Keenan, who was for many years a resident of Findlay, Ohio, where he was extensively engaged in the oil business, was born in St. Catherine, Canada, in the year 1864, his father, who for eighteen years was a locomotive engineer, having been temporarily engaged there at that time. The latter died in Meadville, Pennsylvania, in 1884, and the mother's death occurred at Corry, that state, in 1872. From his native place the son Hugh removed with his parents to Corry, Pennsylvania, where he remained until his seventh year, while for the following twenty years he was a resident

of Meadville, that state, receiving his education in the latter city. After his marriage Mr. Keenan went with his bride to the oil fields near Bradford, Pennsylvania, in McKean county, entering the employ of the United Pipe Line, but after a residence there of one year he removed to Findlay, Ohio, still retaining his connection with the same company, for whom he acted as gauger until September, 1899. After spending about fifteen years in various capacities in the oil fields Mr. Keenan decided to engage in the business on his own account, and from 1899 until his removal to his present location was very successful in his ventures. In November, 1902, he removed to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, his post office address being Conneaut Lake, where he is now extensively engaged in the stock business. On the 12th of September, 1902, he purchased of Mrs. Adam Fullhart the celebrated Galbeton, with a record of 2:11½, and he is also the owner of Moving Star, with a trial record of 2:18 at four years old.

In Crawford county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of August, 1884, Mr. Keenan was united in marriage to Minerva Ettie Keen, a daughter of John P. Keen, also a native of the Keystone state. Two children have been born unto this union,—Floy M. and Katherine A. In his fraternal relations Mr. Keenan is a member of Findlay Commandery, No. 49, and politically is allied with the Democracy. He is well and favorably known in the localities in which he has made his home as an enterprising and successful business man, and has won the respect and confidence of his townsmen and coworkers.

WILLIAM ALSPACH.

William Alspach is one of the leading merchants and public spirited business men of Vanlue, and is proud to be the descendant of one of Hancock county's oldest pioneers. His grandfather Adam was a brave soldier in the war of 1812; his wife was Barbara Wyant, and they were both natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Hancock county in 1829 and there entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Amanda township, where they took up their residence in the following year. He was a hard working man and did much to prepare the way for those to follow in the path of the first pioneers. He was born in 1788 and died in 1856, his wife surviving him ten years. Their family consisted of nine children, three of them yet living.

Daniel, one of their sons, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1811, and came with his father to Hancock county in 1830. He followed the life of a farmer and made marked success in this calling. In 1836 he married

Catherine A. Vanlue, who was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1818, and came to this county in 1833. Daniel Alspach died April 1, 1891, but his wife is still living, enjoying the love and esteem of all around her. They became the parents of ten children, and six are yet living: Barbara, Elizabeth, Alice, S. V., James P. and William; they hold various positions in society and are counted among the best citizens of the county.

William Alspach was born in Amanda township April 13, 1840, and his early life was spent in the healthy environments of the farm. He had arrived at man's estate when the Civil war broke out, and he entered the service as a member of Company E, One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; he enlisted for three years, but at the close of the war was discharged. On his return from the army he entered the mercantile business and has continued this with gratifying success up to the present time. He confines his stock to groceries and keeps only those of the highest quality and fresh from the market; by his thorough business methods he has gained and kept a large and satisfied patronage.

Mr. Alspach has also been prominent in the public affairs of his town. During President Cleveland's administration he held the office of postmaster, and he was also mayor of Vanlue for two years; he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is past noble grand and past chief patriarch. On November 24, 1859, he was married to a daughter of George and Mary M. Cross, Miss Elizabeth J., who was born in Hancock county on February 24, 1841, and died February 21, 1877. Four of their five children are now living: P. D. L., James A., W. P. and Lucy J.

WILLIAM C. NEIBLING.

This urbane and highly esteemed representative of the medical fraternity of Hancock county is a native of the city of Findlay, where he was born April 11, 1851. He passed the period of adolescence in this city, receiving an excellent foundation for the further literary course which he added to his equipment before he began the study of medicine. He took up the study of medicine in Findlay with Dr. J. C. Tritch, and after a year or two reading in his office, matriculated with the Pulte Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio. Here he continued his studies continuously until 1889, when he received the diploma of that institution. He returned immediately to his home town and took up active practice, in which he has been engaged since. Dr. Neibling is a deep student in the medical profession. He takes a keen interest in everything that pertains to it, and is never satisfied to allow him-

J. M. Neibling

C. A. Steibeling M. D.

self to become rusty. He has taken several post-graduate courses in the New York Polyclinic School, and has also attended post-graduate schools at the Chicago Homeopathic College. He takes an active interest in the different medical organizations in his section of the state, the Ohio Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and the Orificial Society of Surgeons. He is an active member of the Knights of Pythias organization, is a member of the Elks fraternity, and by virtue of his father's military record, a member of the Loyal Legion. Dr. Neibling never married.

Looking somewhat into the earlier history of the Neibling family, Dr. Neibling was a son of James M. Neibling, a gentleman who was a native of Fairfield, Ohio, where he was born in 1827. In young manhood he removed to Hancock county, where he engaged in merchandising for several years in Findlay. He was a gentleman who took an active part in the public life of the community, and displaying qualities that made him peculiarly fit for the office of sheriff, he was in 1856 elected to that office and in 1858 received re-election. When the dark days of the rebellion broke over the country, he was one of the very first to offer his services, in 1861 being made lieutenant colonel of the Thirty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which position he served until 1863, when in January of that year he was promoted for meritorious conduct on the field to a full colonelcy. He served until January of 1865, when, having lost his right arm at the battle of Resaca, he resigned and returned home, having made a splendid record as a most gallant defender of the Union, and having been breveted brigadier general. After the war he was a merchant in Findlay until the time of his death, which occurred in 1869. In 1866 he received the appointment of postmaster of Findlay from the hands of President Johnson, and it was while filling this office that his death occurred. Previous to his record as a soldier in the Civil war, Colonel Neibling had been connected with the military affairs of his country, having served during the whole period of the Mexican war, serving as a private soldier. Dr. Neibling's grandfather was Christian Neibling, who was a gallant soldier in the war of 1812. The Neiblings are of German descent, the great-great-grandfather of our subject, the first American ancestor, emigrating to America from Saxony.

CHARLES MALLEN.

In a notable speech made at New Orleans in 1846 in aid of the sufferers by the Irish famine of that period, Sergeant S. Prentiss, the celebrated Mississippi orator, thus opened his address: "Far away to the eastward

lies an island famous in story and in song; she has contributed to the world more than her due share of wit and eloquence, and her sons have fought successfully on all fields save their own." One naturally recalls this glorious tribute to a remarkable race when dealing with any of its members in a biographical way, and it is not too much to say that the Emerald Isle has sent no worthier sons to America than the Mallen family. Like most other emigrants that crossed over from that unhappy land, they came with little means and were compelled to face the labor problem in its severest forms to obtain a means of livelihood. James Mallen was born in Dublin in 1837, embarked for America in 1866 and after his arrival located in New York state, where he secured employment. He is still residing at Jamestown, New York. He was married at Dublin, Ireland, in 1866 to Mary Daily, by whom he had six children.

Charles Mallen, one of the children, was born at DeBruce, New York, April 4, 1873, and remained there during the early years of his childhood, but later accompanied his parents to Jamestown, New York. As he grew up he became familiar with the insurance business, for which he exhibited an early aptitude, and when he came to Findlay in 1895 he was made agent of the Prudential Insurance Company at that point, which position he has continued to hold up to the present time. Mr. Mallen possesses the suave and easy address peculiar to his race, and during his career at Findlay has done well, both for himself and his company.

In 1899 Mr. Mallen was united in marriage with Miss Katherine Dunford, a most estimable young lady of Findlay, whose untimely death threw a gloom over more than one household where her name was cherished. Mrs. Mallen's death occurred on the 6th of August, 1900, leaving an infant son who was christened Charles J. Mr. Mallen, like his ancestors for generations back, is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church, and holds fraternal connections with the Knights of Columbus.

W. A. WISE.

When, about the middle of the last century, it was found that crude petroleum could be refined so as to make a most valuable product for commercial purposes and completely do away with the old tallow candles for lighting, there was a rush for the oil fields of western Pennsylvania, and in a few years the oil produced from that region made a large percentage of the total exports of the United States. This industry has not been confined in recent years to this one favored spot of the Union, but has spread and

has become one of the sources of wealth in various parts of the country. When the oil business was at its height in Pennsylvania, about the year 1874, there was born in the vicinity of the oil belt, in McKean county, a young man who was to make good use of the knowledge gained from observation and experience in the business, when he took up his home in the neighboring state of Ohio. This was W. A. Wise, whose boyhood was spent in the busy scenes about the Allegheny river, where he became familiar with the production of oil from the time it was taken in the crude state from the wells until the refined product was barreled and shipped to the marts of trade. His father, John B. Wise, assisted him and encouraged him in this branch of business until his death, four years after which sad event, and when he was seventeen years old, he came with his mother, in 1891, to Hancock county, where he set to work to develop the oil fields of this region. By close saving he soon had money enough to drill for himself. He has done a great deal to make the business here profitable and is now considered indispensable to its success. On the fifty-five acres of land which he owns in Liberty township he has fifteen producing oil wells, which return a handsome revenue every month. In addition to this he farms his land, and his place is one of the models of the county.

In 1894 Mr. Wise married the only daughter of one of the old and respected citizens of this county, Miss Nella, the daughter of W. C. and Susan Watson. She was born March 12, 1876, on the farm in Liberty township adjoining the one which she inherited from her father and now lives on with her husband. The first child to come into their happy home was born in 1894 and was given the name of Ruth by her grandfather; in 1899 a son was born, who now bears the name of his mother's father, William C. Watson.

CHARLES A. BOND.

One of the enterprising and successful young business men of Findlay, Ohio, is Charles A. Bond, the popular manager of the National Clothing and Shoe House, of this city. Mr. Bond is a son of Findlay, born here in 1873, and was reared and educated in his native city.

The successful career of Mr. Bond shows what may be accomplished by the application of energy and industry, combined with honesty and a pleasant and courteous demeanor. In 1887 he entered the clothing store of Samuel Lippman in the humble position of cash boy, and his close application and faithful service were rewarded seven years later by an excellent position as salesman. When the business changed hands in 1894 he went as

a clerk, with Mr. Lippman's successor, A. Weiss, and soon was made head salesman in this large establishment. When another change came in the business, and the National company was formed, Mr. Bond still was continued in his position, and in 1900 he was made general manager. His long connection with the business renders him almost invaluable, but he has made his own career by his individual efforts.

In October, 1899, our subject was married to Miss Blanche Hull, who is a daughter of J. G. Hull, of Findlay, and one son, Girard D., was born to this union. In politics Mr. Bond adheres to the principles of the Republican party, while in fraternal life he is a member of the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and Uniform Rank, and the Knights of Khorassan.

DAVID BECK.

Andrew and Catherine Beck were natives of the state of Pennsylvania over a century ago and after growing up to maturity there removed, in the early history of the future state of Ohio, to what is now Fairfield county, and from there came, in 1838, to Hancock county, where Andrew entered eighty acres of land and during the remainder of his life cleared and improved the larger part of this. He was not only one of the earliest pioneers of Hancock county, but also of Fairfield county. He had served in the war of 1812. After coming to Hancock county he lost his wife and he then broke up his home and for the rest of his life lived with his daughter, Mrs. Bachar, of Wyandot. There were seven children in his family, but they have all now passed away.

Of this number there was a son, also called Andrew, who was born in Fairfield county, October 20, 1807; in 1834 he came with his family to Hancock county and in Amanda township took up one hundred and sixty acres of land, which in the course of hard, earnest labor he brought under a fine state of cultivation. He was a man of much strength of character, large hearted and hospitable in the extreme. He was a Democrat and a member of the Lutheran church. His wife was Lydia Fenstmacher, who was born in Fairfield county in 1814; she died in 1868, and he passed away in 1882. Seven of the ten children born to them are now living, and two, Mrs. R. Alspach and David, are in this county.

David Beck, the life of whom it is the purpose of this sketch to briefly outline, claims Amanda township as the place of his birth, his natal day being April 10, 1845. After he had passed his boyhood days on his father's farm and, like the other boys of his neighborhood, had attended the

district school, he chose as his permanent occupation the independent life of a farmer, and in connection with this he engaged in threshing for fifteen years. He embarked on his own agricultural course in 1869 and began to accumulate real estate until he now owns a fine farm of one hundred and thirteen acres, which he devotes to general farming and stock raising. In 1901, having gained a considerable competence through his careful and well directed labor he retired from his farm and now resides in Vanlue.

Mr. Beck was twice married. His first wife was Mrs. Mary B. Akam, and their marriage took place in 1869; she bore one son, Lawrence A., and her death occurred in 1890. For his second wife he took on September 3, 1891, Mrs. Cynthia McClelland; to them were born Clyde, May 21, 1892. For six years Mr. Beck has held the position of trustee of Amanda township. In fraternal relations he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is past grand.

CLAYTON W. FORD.

Clayton W. Ford is one of the leading dairy farmers in Marion township, Hancock county, and owns one hundred and twenty acres of fertile and valuable land there, a part of which is situated within the city limits.

The birth of Mr. Ford took place in Liberty township, Hancock county, on June 15, 1852, and he is a son of Jesse and Mary (Powell) Ford, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 2, 1822, and the latter in Hancock county September 16, 1831. Jesse Ford was a man of education, for a considerable time taught school and through life was regarded by his neighbors as possessed of excellent judgment as well as a farmer of more than usual ability. He began life on a farm of eighty acres. and at the time of his death, August 16, 1888, he owned three hundred acres. His fellow citizens regarded him with so much confidence that he was elected to a number of the local offices within their gift, and for a long time he was one of the township supervisors and school directors. His widow still survives.

Clayton W. Ford began life for himself in the possession of an excellent education, having taken a full course in the Findlay high school, with the intention of following a teacher's profession, which plan he put into operation, and for five years was one of the popular and successful educators of this county. In 1876 he began his acquirement of land, purchasing at that time a tract of ten acres, as a nucleus. To this he gradually added as fortune favored him, until he is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of

the finest dairy land in the county. His stock has been well selected both for productiveness and quality of milk and cream, and thus he is enabled to secure very satisfying prices for his output. Mr. Ford keeps fifty head of cattle through the whole year, his dairy stock numbering forty head.

Mr. Ford has put his knowledge of the dairy business, in its relation to the care and protection of his stock, to a very practical use, by an invention which should be in the hands of every dairy farmer and cattle raiser. This is a very ingenious arrangement which its inventor has named the Anti-Cattle fighter, and which consists of a kind of cap worn on the head of the animal, and which is so controlled by a halter as to make fighting among animals an impossibility. It is an invention remarkable for its practicability, its durability and its cheapness. Mr. Ford secured a patent in the United States January 28, 1902, and in Canada February 4, of the same year. Since occupying his present quarters our subject has been continually engaged in improving every part of his domain, and, as we have noted, owns one of the most complete dairy farms and dairy outfits in Hancock county.

September 1, 1886, Mr. Ford was united in marriage with Miss Harriet C. Hagerman, who was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, January 12, 1853, a daughter of Mahlon and Catherine Hagerman. No children have been born to this marriage. Mr. Ford enjoys the reputation of being one of the most reliable as well as substantial citizens of his township. With credit he has served as school director, and takes a deep interest in all measures which promise to be of benefit to his locality. In dairy matters he is justly considered an excellent authority.

WILLIAM HARROP.

A man who early sought his fortunes in America and who has believed in his adopted country ever since landing in it is Mr. William Harrop, a prominent oil producer in Findlay. Mr. Harrop was born in Birmingham, England, in 1837, and came to America in 1855. He went directly to Newark, New Jersey, where he resided for two years. The metropolis of the United States attracted him, and during the time he lived in New York he was the foreman for F. Stephens on Pearl street, a well known dealer in military equipment. An Englishman takes naturally to the implements of war, which probably led to his choice of an occupation. His adaptability in this class of work led to his employment in the United States ordnance department at Watervliet arsenal, where he remained nearly four years.

The oil excitement in the Pennsylvania oil fields attracted him to that part of the country, to which he went in 1865, where he learned practically the entire business of oil producing. He was afterward identified in commercial enterprises, among which was a wholesale and retail crockery business in Jamestown, New York, in which he was interested for some eight years. In 1886 he moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he has lived ever since, again going into the oil producing business, and in which he is widely known.

In 1871 Mr. Harrop was united in marriage to Sarah J. Fellers, and there have been four children to bless this union, as follows: Clara L., wife of J. A. Skillen; Mabel, wife of C. A. Earl; Arthur H. and Alice. Mr. Harrop is a member of the Masonis order of Troy, New York, and he and his family are connected with the Presbyterian church of Findlay. In political faith Mr. Harrop is Republican, giving his hearty support to the measures of that party.

CLINTON S. CORTHELL.

This gentleman, at present one of the prosperous and prominent capitalist of Findlay, illustrates by his experience the ups and downs of the oil industry,—its fascinating promises of fortune, as well as its equally abundant opportunities for failure. He has had his full measure of failures and successes, disappointments and "lucky strikes," coming out of it all at last on the top wave and achieving a standing among the successful business men of his adopted state. At the present time he holds high official positions in connection with various manufacturing plants, in which also he is a principal owner, and enjoys high consideration in the financial circles of Findlay. Clinton S. Corthell was born on a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York, in 1844, received his education in the schools at Franklinville and retained his home there until 1872. In 1864 he concluded to "try his luck" in the Pennsylvania oil fields, where he started at the bottom, but in three years managed to make some six or eight thousand dollars. With this capital he returned to the county of his nativity and engaged in farming four or five years. His next venture was the purchase of a stage line between Franklinville and Arcadia, New York, which he operated six years, and made some money out of the business. The old fascination and success, however, drew him back to the eastern Pennsylvania oil fields, where, to use Mr. Corthell's own expressive language, he eventually "went broke." After a struggle with varying fortunes in this field for fifteen years and in the end seeing his previous accumulations vanish, he determined to transfer his scene of operations to

Ohio. Locating at Findlay, fortune again smiled upon him, and at the end of a very active business career he has an abundance of this world's goods to attest to his good management and financial ability. His first investment was in the livery business, which he conducted with profit for seven years. As side lines he bought farms in partnership with C. L. Casterline, and was in the glycerine business until 1898. In 1886 the Genesee Oil Company was organized and Mr. Corthell was elected its president and general manager, a position which he has since continuously held. The Bradford Oil Company, consisting of Clinton S. Corthell and C. L. Casterline, was organized in 1898 as successor of the Bradford Glycerine Company, and of this Mr. Corthell is half owner and general manager.

In 1887, while living in Pennsylvania, Mr. Corthell was wedded to Miss Mary Boyington, by whom he has one daughter, named Celia J. For eight years he has been a member of the city council of Findlay, elected on the Democratic ticket, and he has been influential in shaping the legislation and finances of the city. He is a popular and prominent member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being a charter member of that organization at Findlay. Mr. Corthell may be described as a strong man, both physically and mentally, an incessant worker and resourceful manager, whose most noticeable peculiarity is the possession of what in common parlance is called "good common sense."

ANDERSON C. HECK.

Many of the foremost people of Findlay have been born, have lived and received their education in the town, electing to make it their permanent abiding place, thereby showing their faith in its future, and having their interests centered in its interests. Of such is Anderson C. Heck, who was born in Findlay on October 11, 1854. He has lived in Findlay all his life, with the exception of the years from 1893 to 1901, during which time he was engaged in the glass business in Delaware county, Indiana.

Mr. Heck's father was George Heck, who moved from Pennsylvania some years previous to his birth. With his father he started a hardware store in Findlay in 1873, and continued in the business for eight years. After leaving the hardware business he became a lumber merchant until 1887. In 1888, realizing the opportunities for the glass business, he organized the Model Flint Glass Company, of which he was made president, and in which capacity he served until 1901, exercising an active supervision over its affairs. This company was absorbed by the National Glass Company of Pittsburg,

N. C. Heck

Pennsylvania, in which corporation Mr. Heck now holds stock. In 1901, he went into the foundry in Findlay, which is known as the Heck & Marvin Company.

He was married in 1879 in Findlay to Jennie E. Livingston; they have one daughter, Bird M. Mrs. Heck, who died June 24, 1901, was a daughter of Pierce Livingston, a native of Scotland, and her mother, Nancy (Schrencost) Livingston, now resides at Carey, Ohio. His record in public positions of trust has been long and useful. In politics he is a firm Republican, and served the city of Findlay as councilman from the second ward for one year, overcoming a Democratic majority of ninety. While living in Delaware county, Indiana, he served for four years as a school trustee. He was one of the incorporators of Findlay College, and held the office of secretary of the board of trustees for two years when he resigned. He donated liberally toward the erection of the college, as did his father and his brother John Heck. He is a Royal Arch Mason, an Odd Fellow and a member of the B. P. O. Elks, in all of which organizations he is a highly respected and worthy member.

LOUIS KARG.

The subject of this sketch has long been known in Findlay, in three different capacities; first as a butcher, next as as an ice and coal dealer, and later as a producer of oil. He is a typical German, with all the peculiarities of his race, prominent among which are industry, economy and a rare talent for getting on in the world. They easily adapt themselves to surroundings and conditions, have the faculty of making friends and are almost invariably excellent citizens.

Louis Karg was the first of the name to locate at Findlay. His birth occurred in Germany in 1827, and after marrying there he came to America. Having lost his first wife by death he again married, in Chicago, and by this union there were three children: Louis; Lena, wife of Jacob Baker; and Charles E. Louis Karg engaged in the butcher's business at Findlay, and carried it on for many years and his second wife died in that city in 1877. Their eldest son, Louis Karg, was born at Findlay, November 15, 1860, and was reared as well as educated in his native city. In boyhood he was taken into his father's shop, taught the business and worked at it for twenty years. In 1890, however, he abandoned butchering to embark in the ice and coal trade, which occupied his time for nine years, when he made another change to the business of producing oil. This has constituted his employment for

the last four years and he has obtained a fair measure of success from his ventures. Mr. Karg is unmarried. His religious affiliations are with the German Lutheran church, and in politics he is an adherent of Democracy. His only fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias, his membership being with lodge No. 400 of that order. Mr. Karg is esteemed by his intimates and respected by his acquaintances, being one of those men who make many friends and few enemies.

NELSEN R. SWARTZ.

Though descended from a line of farmers the subject of this review has chosen to secure a living from the soil in a different way, that of oil-producing. His grandfather was George Swartz, a Pennsylvanian, though he later migrated to Ohio, in which state he died in 1871, having been all his life a farmer. The son of George Swartz, Solomon Swartz, the father of Nelsen R. Swartz, is now a retired farmer of Hancock county. He was born in Fairfield county, this state in 1836, and has lived in Hancock county since 1859; he married Sarah A. Radebaugh, and they had six children, of whom four survive, as follows: Charles S.; Morris W.; Nelsen R. and Merle E.

Nelsen R. Swartz was born on a farm in Liberty township, Hancock county, in December, 1873, where he lived during his earlier years, attending the country schools and working on the farm. At the age of seventeen, however, he was attracted to the oil fields, and started to work as a pumper. He made unusual progress in the methods of the business, skipping the usual course of dressing tools and attending the drill, and commenced contracting and producing on his own account at a very early age. He is now engaged in oil producing, having located in Findlay in 1899.

Mr. Swartz was married in 1899, in Detroit, Michigan, to Minnie M. Marstellar, daughter of James Marstellar, of that city, and they have one son, Herbert M. Mr. Swartz is a thorough-going Republican, and is numbered among the ranks of the Odd Fellows of Findlay.

GEORGE A. DEIHLMAN.

As a fruit state, Ohio has long been among the foremost of the Union, her natural advantages and climate tending to produce some of the finest fruit in the world. Among those who have taken advantage of this fact and succeeded in making it an exclusive industry is George A. Deihlman, of

Findlay. Mr. Deihlman was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, in 1832, and came to America in 1853. His father, Adam Deihlman, lived and died in the fatherland. The first work our subject engaged in after arriving in America was in a bone-dust factory near New York city. It was there he doubtless learned some of the secrets of cultivating the soil of America. He then moved to Stark county, Ohio, where he went into the pottery business at Limonville, and in that business he continued about eighteen years. In 1871 he moved to Findlay, working some six years in a pottery factory, and later for several years as road contractor. Believing there was a future in the fruit raising business he went into that on an extensive scale, in which he has continued and prospered.

He served his adopted country in the war of the Rebellion as faithfully as any of her sons, and though his war record was not as long as many others it was no less praiseworthy. He served in Company F, One Hundred and Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private from January, 1864, until the close of the war, his company having principally been engaged in skirmishes along the border. He keeps up his interest in war times as a member of Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R., in which he now holds the honorable position of treasurer. In politics Mr. Deihlman is a stanch Republican.

In 1854 the subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hoffman, and of their eleven children eight are still living. Mr. Deihlman's religious connection is with the Evangelical church.

CHARLES W. MASCHO.

A man who has worked his way to the top in the oil business is Mr. Charles W. Mascho, who is the manager of the National Supply Company. Mr. Mascho was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, in a small village called Brookfield, in which place he lived and attended school to the age of twelve years, when his parents moved to McKean county, in the same state, which is situated in the oil belt. They remained in that locality about five years, and removed to Allegany county, New York, in which place they lived four years. Mr. Mascho finished his education at Bolivar, in the state of New York, and with his father returned to the oil region of Pennsylvania, and went to work in the oil business. Our subject continued at this work for eighteen months, at the end of which period he removed to Findlay, in the year 1886. He went to work in the Carrothers Rolling Mill, working on the rolls, and held that position a year, at the end of which time he accepted a clerkship with the firm of J. B. McElvaine & Company for six months. He

became a prospector for oil on his own account in a short time, and before long went to work as a clerk for the Buckeye Supply Company, which later became the National Supply Company. His business ability has been of such a character that he has advanced steadily, and is now the district manager of that concern.

Mr. Mascho was married, in 1899, in Findlay, to Matilda, a daughter of Joseph Martin. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias, and is thoroughly independent in politics.

Mr. Mascho's father was John J. Mascho, who was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1838, and died in 1899. He was a farmer during his early years and was engaged in the oil business during the latter part of his life, in which occupation he was engaged at the time of his death. He left five children surviving.

ANDREW BISH.

The gentleman of whom we are now permitted to write was county treasurer of Hancock county at the time of his death, which occurred September 14, 1901. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 2, 1834, and was a son of Henry Bish, and a grandson of Henry Bish, Sr. The latter was born in Virginia in 1795, but late in life removed to Sandusky county, Ohio, where his death occurred in 1875. Andrew Bish, of this review, was reared and educated in the place of his nativity, and after arriving at the age of maturity came with his parents to Sandusky county, Ohio, where the father purchased a farm. The son continued to reside at home for the following five years, and in 1858 came to Marion township, Hancock county, where he was a prominent member of the agricultural class until 1895. In that year he rented his farm and moved into the city of Findlay, where he continued to reside until his death. During the period of the Civil war he served with what is known as the Hundred Day Men, and in 1898, on the Republican ticket, he was elected treasurer of Hancock county, being re-elected to the position in 1900, and was the incumbent at the time of his death. In 1857 Mr. Bish was united in marriage to Minerva, daughter of George and Catherine Gear, and to this union were born the following children: William S., who is mentioned below; Mary C., the wife of Benjamin F. Burns, of Findlay, Ohio; Martha, who died in infancy; and Charles.

William S. Bish, the eldest son of Andrew and Minerva Bish, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, November 26, 1857, and came with his parents

to Hancock county in 1858. He was reared on the home farm in Marion township, receiving an excellent education in the schools of the district, and this was supplemented by further study in the Findlay city schools. Closing his school life in 1877, he returned to the home farm, and there remained for the following two years engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1879 he entered upon a course in a business college at Grand Rapids, Michigan, following which he passed six months in a grocery store in Findlay. He then became bookkeeper at the First National Bank of Findlay, where he remained until the latter part of 1883, and then bought an interest in a grocery store in this city. Selling his interest therein a year later, he went to Garden City, Kansas, where for the following four years he was engaged in the banking business, but finding there was no state like the old Buckeye he returned to Findlay and for a period was engaged in oil operations. In September, 1898, he entered the treasurer's office as his father's deputy, and after the latter's death was appointed by the county commissioners of Hancock county to fill out the unexpired term. On the 5th of November, 1901, he was elected to that office for a term of two years, and is now acceptably discharging the duties of that important position. On the 16th of January, 1884, at Findlay, Mr. Bish was united in marriage to Alice Anderson, the daughter of William and Harriet (Alban) Anderson. They have had the following named children: Helen M., born May 5, 1885, and died July 28, 1886; Howard A., born November 9, 1886; Marian, born October 18, 1892, and died July 11, 1894; and Alma, born August 6, 1897. Fraternally Mr. Bish is a worthy member of Hancock Lodge, No. 73, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and in politics is a stanch supporter of the principles laid down in the Republican platform.

MARION BELL.

Perhaps the best judge of horses in Findlay to-day is Mr. Marion Bell, who has made a study of horses all his life. His earliest life was connected with horses, having been born and brought up on a farm, and in every calling in which he has engaged ever since, it has been one in which he has employed horses.

Mr. Bell is of pioneer Ohio stock, his grandfather, Jack Bell, having been a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. His father, Alfred Bell, was also born in Fairfield county, but came to Hancock county in early manhood. He was a farmer all his life, and died in Wyandot county in 1891. He was married in 1847 to Emmeline Glick, daughter of David Glick, of Hancock

county, and they had nine children, of whom six now survive, as follows: Russell B.; Joseph T.; Emma, widow of Soloman Zimmerman; Marion; David; and Charles. The mother of this family died in 1883.

The life of Marion Bell has mostly been passed near his native place, He was born November 23, 1856, and lived on his father's farm until he was fifteen years of age, attending the country schools. He decided to start out for himself, and for eight years worked on the farm of M. J. George; this was followed by a year's work for George June, at Fremont, Ohio, who was a horse trader. Mr. Bell then contracted to carry the mail from Findlay to Mt. Blanchard, and from Mt. Blanchard to Forest for a year. At the end of that time he bought a half interest in a steam thresher, which he ran for three years. His acquaintance throughout the country being considable, he began the business of buying and trading horses, in which occupation he has ever since been engaged.

Mr. Bell was married in 1883, at Mt. Blanchard, to Carrie H., daughter of M. J. George, and they had one child, Eva L. The wife died in 1889, and Mr. Bell was again married, on May 21, 1891, to Sarah E., daughter of Grundy Ake, and they have one son, Frank Rice Bell. Mr. Bell belongs to no church and to no secret order. In politics he is a Republican in good standing.

WILLIAM A. DEMLAND.

One of the popular young business men of the city of Findlay is Mr. Demland, who is incumbent of the office of secretary of the Findlay Water Works Company and also of the Hancock County Agricultural Society, in each of which capacities he is rendering most effiective service. He has applied his energies and abilities to the best possible advantages and has ever retained the confidenc and good will of those with whom he has been thrown in contact.

Mr. Demland was born on a farm in Henry county Ohio, on the 3d of May, 1866, and there he grew up under the invigorating influences of the agricultural life, attending the district schools and assisting in the work of the farm. At the age noted, in 1882, he made a trip to Colorado and the Dakotas, returning within the same year and locating in Fostoria, Seneca county, where he remained about one year and then removed to Defiance, where he was employed in a clerical capacity in a dry goods establishment for two years. In 1885 Mr. Demland came to Findlay and became a clerk in the dry goods establishment of A. A. Dillinger, in whose employ he con-

tinued until 1899, when he secured his present important preferment as secretary of the Findlay Water Works Company. Two years previously Mr. Demland had been chosen secretary of the Hancock County Agricultural Society, and he has been indefatigable in promoting the interests of this organization, through which is given a proper representation of the agricultural, stock growing and other industrial interests of the county, the annual exhibitions proving of much value and interest. In politics our subject gives his allegiance to the Democratic party, his religious faith is that of the Church of Christ, and fraternally he is a popular member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias.

In 1890 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Demland to Miss Myrtle Dillinger, daughter of Archibald A. Dillinger, the well known merchant of Findlay, and previously mentioned in this sketch.

THOMAS J. STACKHOUSE.

Ranking among the old settlers of Hancock county, Ohio, where he has lived for more than fifty years, and a native of the state of Ohio, is that worthy citizen of Findlay, Thomas J. Stackhouse. His father, Joshua Stackhouse, one of the pioneer settlers of Ohio, was born in Pennsylvania in 1802, but moved to Ohio, and died there in 1847. Thomas J. Stackhouse was born in Hanover, Ohio, February 13, 1835, where he lived until five years of age, when his parents moved to Seneca county, and located on a farm. Here he lived the happy, healthy and active life of a farmer's boy, helping with the farm work in the summer, and in the winter attending the public school and doing chores. His father died when he was twelve years old. In 1851, when about seventeen years of age, he came to Findlay, and being ambitious and anxious to start in business for himself, he learned the baker's trade and carried on a bakery for several years. Then, his trade increasing and business prospering, he started a restaurant, and after six years in that line, having gained experience and patronage, he opened a hotel in Findlay, in which business he continued up to the year 1895. He then went into the feed and provision business, which he continued for some time and in 1902 again engaged in the hotel business.

Mr. Stackhouse has been twice married: First, in 1864, in Findlay, to Fannie Hime, who died in 1894, after thirty years' of married life, leaving five children, as follows: Cora E., wife of J. W. Carney; Thomas B.; James J.; Rolla R.; and Rosa, wife of John Negrotto. November 7, 1897, Mr.

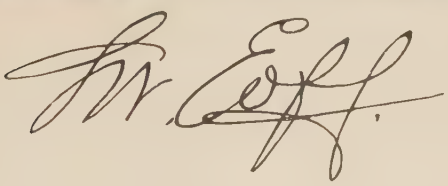
Stackhouse was again married, to Elfie P. Lape, and they have two children, Ruth and Esther.

Mr. Stackhouse is one of that noble army—the veterans of the Civil war—which daily diminishes, until in a few years there will be none left to answer the roll call. He enlisted in the Union army in May, 1864, at Findlay, Ohio, as a private in Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until September 13, 1864, being mustered out at Columbus, Ohio. He was under fire in fights at Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Maryland Heights. Mr. Stackhouse also had three brothers in the army, one of whom died fighting for his country. David, now deceased, was a member of the Fifty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Madison belonged to the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry and Eighty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry; and Harison, who was in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was killed at Chickamauga.

Mr. Stackhouse is a member of the Baptist church, a Knight of Pythias, and in politics a Republican. He is an honored and respected citizen in the community and has many friends.

LOUIS W. EOFF.

The progress of a city is largely due to its financial institutions, inasmuch as it is upon these that the industries and business establishments depend for capital to meet their obligations, and it is safe to say that a good town always has good banks. Those therefore who have charge of the banks, are necessarily in position to exercise much influence for good or ill, and it is of vital importance that they should be men of the highest character and ability. Aside from their immediate duties, their advice and assistance in conducting the government and giving the impetus to new enterprises are invaluable, and for this reason the banking staffs are found filling all kinds of positions of trust and responsibility. Findlay has always been fortunate in its financiers and few cities of its size are better known for the probity as well as general ability of those who have had the direction of its large affairs. In this corps of civic servants, who have been conspicuous at every stage of its growth, no man of his age has achieved more for his community or deserved more for himself than the gentleman whose life work forms the basis for this brief biography. He has been connected with banks from early boyhood, and in reward for those qualities which are so highly appreciated in these institutions, he has risen with rapidity through various grades to his



present position of responsibility as cashier of one of the most important financial concerns of the city.

The Eoff family is of Holland origin, and the first emigrants of the name came to America as far back as 1638. In after years, descendants of these first arrivals found lodgment in various colonies of the east, including New Jersey, where Cornelius Eoff was born during the latter half of the eighteenth century. When the troubles preceding the American Revolution became acute they touched a sympathetic chord in this descendant of a people who had always been noted for their friendliness to freedom and hatred of oppression in all its forms. Young Eoff was fired with enthusiasm to do something for the cause of the struggling colonies, and this desire was gratified by his becoming a drum-major in General Washington's body-guard, with which company he served through the subsequent stirring scenes. Cornelius was the great-grandfather of Louis W. Eoff, the Findlay banker, and it is needless to add that the latter is justly proud of having such an ancestor.

Eli Eoff, grandson of the Revolutionary patriot, was born in New York, in 1824, and married Mary White, whose birth occurred in the same state in 1833. Some years afterward they removed to Ohio, locating at Elmore, where Mr. Eoff rose to a position of influence and for thirty years held the position of village postmaster. His wife died there in 1886, and some years later he removed to Toledo, Ohio, of which city he has since been a resident.

Louis W. Eoff, son of this worthy couple, was born at Elmore, Ohio, January 1, 1865, and remained at the home of his parents until fifteen years of age. After the usual preliminary attendance in the common schools of his native place, he entered Oberlin College and spent one year in that excellent institution, during which period he improved his opportunities to the utmost. Returning home he spent a short time teaching school, but this was soon abandoned for more congenial occupation. His ambition, which early took shape, was to pursue a business career and soon an opportunity offered which promised an outlet along the lines of his desire. Being offered a position as bookkeeper in the bank at Elmore, he gladly accepted and for a year and a half discharged the duties of this place so well that the ground work was laid and an opening made for better things. December 18, 1883, Mr. Eoff accepted a position as teller in the First National Bank of Findlay, which he held four years, and this proved the beginning of his long and intimate connection with the financial affairs of the city, which has continued until the present time. In 1887 he assisted in organizing the American National Bank of Findlay, and in June of the same year was appointed assistant cashier of that institution. In 1889, after a service of two years, he was made cash-

ier of this popular bank, and from that time up to the present has discharged the duties of this responsible position with marked ability and constantly growing appreciation. Under his able management the American National Bank has had a steady growth and now ranks as one of the leading financial institutions of northwestern Ohio. In line with his business interests Mr. Eoff is a member of the executive council of the Ohio Bankers' Association, and he is also president of the Findlay board of trade. But it is not simply as a banker that Mr. Eoff's services have proven valuable to the citizens of Findlay. Desiring to avail themselves of his financial skill and sound business judgment, they elected him a member of the city council, and retained him in that office from 1894 until 1900. During these six years of public service, Mr. Eoff fully proved his capability for administrative duties and ability to deal in a broad way with large affairs. He devoted much attention to the important business coming before the council, especially all matters relating to the city's fiscal system, and largely through his instrumentality about two-thirds of the standing debt, amounting to six hundred thousand dollars, was paid off. During his last term in council, Mr. Eoff served as president of the body, and when he left office it was with the good will and sincere esteem of every citizen of Findlay.

In 1889, Mr. Eoff was united in marriage with Miss Lillie Bee, daughter of Judge F. and Pamy Burket, and has an only child named Will Burket Eoff. His political affiliations have always been with the Republican party, to whose principles he lends ardent support and intelligent advocacy. Mr. Eoff's fraternal connections are with Findlay Lodge, No. 75, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in addition to which he holds membership in the Twentieth Century Club, a literary organization composed of some of the leading business and professional men of Findlay.

MORGAN C. SHAFER.

Among the younger members of the bar of Hancock county is numbered the subject of this review, who has been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession in his native city of Findlay since 1893. He is a representative of one of the pioneer families of the state, and in his chosen profession is enjoying a prestige which was held by his honored father in the same field of endeavor, so that there is particular congruity in entering this brief record of his genealogical and personal history.

Mr. Shafer was born in Findlay, on the 4th of December, 1866, and is descended from a good old German family. His paternal great-grand-

father, Michael Shafer, in company with a brother, came from the fatherland to the United States, landing at New York city late in the eighteenth century, and there the brothers separated, Michael going to Washington county, Pennsylvania, from which time on the brothers never knew of each other's existence. Later in the eighteenth century Michael Shafer was married in Washington county, Pennsylvania, to a girl whose first name was Elizabeth, and among their children was Michael Shafer, the grandfather of our subject, who was born in the Keystone state, and was thirteen years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Knox county, Ohio. In Mount Vernon, this state, he learned the blacksmith's trade. When twenty-two years of age he married Miss Nancy Ireland, and in 1835 they moved to Hancock county, Ohio, where they became owners of real estate near Mt. Blanchard. Until he was twenty-one years of age Michael Shafer could only speak the German tongue, but his wife taught him the English language, and being a great reader he soon became a well informed man. This worthy couple were the parents of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters. Mr. Shafer was called from the scenes of this earth in August, 1852, when he was fifty-seven years of age.

Morgan D. Shafer, the father of our subject, was born in Mt. Blanchard, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1838, and his education was received principally in the city of Delaware, this state, where he prosecuted his studies for a time in Ohio Wesleyan University, having defrayed his expenses by teaching school for several years. He was admitted to the bar in 1860, but soon afterward laid aside the work of his profession to go forth as a soldier during the Civil war, enlisting at the first call for troops, in 1861, as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he was first lieutenant of Company E. After a service of three months he returned home and did not again enlist, having been a strong Democrat and having had certain conscientious prejudices against the war policy of the government. He opened a law office in Findlay, and here continued in the active practice of his profession until his death, which occurred in 1899. He was a man of fine intellectuality and attained high reputation in his chosen profession, being concerned in much of the important litigation brought before the courts of this section of the state and commanding the unequivocal esteem of his professional confrerers and the community in general.

Morgan C. Shafer, the immediate subject of this review, was reared in the place of his nativity, securing his preliminary education in the public schools and being graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1885. He thereafter put his scholastic acquirements to practical test by

teaching school in his native county, and finally continued his studies for a year in Findlay College, after which, in 1887, he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1890. He then returned to his home in Findlay, where he continued his technical reading in the law office of his father, whom he assisted in his professional work until 1893, when he secured admission to the bar of Ohio and has since been engaged in active practice here, being recognized as a thoroughly well informed and discriminating advocate and safely conservative counsel and gaining precedence through his careful and devoted attention to the work of his profession. He is a Democrat in his political proclivities and gives a stanch support to the cause. Fraternally he is identified with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Shafer was married in 1893, at Findlay, to Miss Florence Hamlin, daughter of John M. Hamlin, and they take a prominent place in the social activities of the city, their home being one in which the refined amenities are ever in evidence.

DANIEL L. SMITH.

There could be no more gratifying thing to the citizens of Hancock county than to see many of its farmers spend their later days in ease, freed from the cares and responsibilities of farm life, yet able to enjoy its pleasant side. Mr. Daniel L. Smith is one of the many who have been fortunate in this respect, and as such deserves honorable mention in this volume. He was born on a farm in Amanda township, in this county, in 1845, and has lived on Hancock county farms all his life, with the exception of eleven years, from 1874 to 1885, when he lived on a farm in Henry county, this state. Though he has resided in Findlay since 1890, he still retains an active interest in agricultural pursuits, keeping in touch with his former life.

Mr. Smith's grandfather, Stephen Smith, the first of his family to move to Ohio, was born in New York, came to Hancock county at an early day and died in Wood county. His son, David K. Smith, father of Daniel L., was born in Hancock county in 1825, and he has also been a farmer all his life. He was one of the many loyal sons of Ohio who fought in the war of the Rebellion, having enlisted in the fall of 1864 as a private in Company G, Forty-fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He was in many important fights. David K. Smith married Elizabeth Zinn in 1844, and of their seven children six are still living: Daniel L.; Charity, wife of Jacob Thompson; America, wife of

Asa Morris; William; Catherine, wife of Peter Domer; and Charlotte, wife of Joseph Schwab. The first Mrs. Smith died in 1887, and our subject's father is still living in Hancock county, married to his third wife. He is numbered among the members of the United Brethren church.

Daniel Smith was first married in 1864 to Eliza Ewing, who died in 1873, leaving two children: Kelley L., wife of Lincoln Sheppard; and Jesse E. Mr. Smith was again married in 1875 to Amanda Kwis, and they have six children, all living, who are: Nellie E., wife of Charles Opp; Bertha, wife of Lemuel Huston; Maud, wife of Fred Johnson; John A. Logan; Harry D.; and Vita Z. Mr. Smith has always been a Republican, and that he is counted one of the worthy members of that party is shown by the fact that he served as postmaster under President Hayes at McClure, in Henry county; he also served as trustee of Damascus township, in the same county. Like his father, he is associated with the United Brethren church.

GEORGE GOEPPELE.

George Goeppele is a hale and hearty old citizen of Hancock county, Ohio, who has been connected with its business interests for fifty years, and in this time has fought the faithful fight which has brought honor and success to his old age. He is proud to claim the empire of Germany for his birth-place, where he came into the light of the world in the old state of Wurtemberg on the 4th day of December, 1825; his father and mother were George and Christina Goeppele, and they passed all their lives in their native land. The younger George had the fortune to spend the years before his maturity in Germany and he was there given the excellent training for which the schools of that country are famous. When deciding upon a pursuit in life he chose the trade of baker. The baker boys of Germany have been famous in song and history for centuries, and our subject became one of the jolly apprentices of that calling; so well did he apply himself that he became thoroughly conversant with all its details and he left his country an adept in the important art of cookery.

With hopes and fears, but with a manly and independent spirit which augured well for this young Teuton, Mr. Goeppele crossed the ocean and arrived in America in the month of September, 1851. For a short time he was located in Philadelphia, but after moving about for a year or two he finally came to Hancock county in 1853. Having decided upon Findlay as a suitable place to engage in his trade, he applied himself to it diligently and was soon able to satisfy the taste of the most fastidious epicure and con-

vince him that the art of fancy baking had found a new master. He worked for various firms in the town and for fifty years the products of his ovens were articles of necessity in every household, no one ever being able to find fault with his methods or with the man. He is one of those genial, whole-souled, courteous old gentlemen whom people would patronize for his own personality, if he were not the best baker the town could boast of.

But Mr. Goeppele has not merely been a master of his trade, but he has shown himself possessed of excellent business sagacity as well, and has devoted his earnings to good investments in real estate. He purchased his first property in Findlay in 1858 and he erected a house on his lot; he also built and owned other houses in the city, which bring him good returns for his money. In 1869 he bought a farm of eighteen acres; in 1896 he bought a farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres, consisting of two separate farms, located in Union township, and he also owns a place of one hundred and twenty-six acres in Cass township. This latter farm proved to be productive in oil, and he developed the wells and received such incomes from them that he was able to buy other properties. With the wise foresight of a man of the world he has divided all his property among his children, so that litigation and the breaking of wills can play no part in his posthumous affairs.

Mr. Goeppele was married a few years after coming to this country, in 1854, the lady of his choice being Miss Minnie Gotdman, who became the mother of four children, the three following still living: Charles, born in 1857; Henry, born in 1859; and Ida, born in 1861. The mother of these children died in October, 1861, and in the following year Mr. Goeppele married Elizabeth Broggee; there were born: Emma, in 1865; Katherine, in 1868; Joseph, in 1875; and Omar, in 1880. Mrs. Elizabeth Goeppele died October 29, 1885. These children are now in various walks in life and are among the representative citizens of the county. While Mr. Goeppele never forgets the land of his birth and loves it with the ardor of all true sons of the fatherland, he has become thoroughly imbued with the American spirit, and his adopted country can surely point to no one born within her borders who is a more worthy and public spirited citizen than is George Goeppele.

LOUIS A. WOLFF.

Louis A. Wolff, though not a native born American, is one of the representative business men of Findlay, and a loyal citizen of the state of Ohio, having emigrated to this country and settled within her borders be-

fore attaining his majority. He is a native of Germany, and was born in Bavaria in the year 1852. He left the fatherland in 1870, for America, coming direct to London, Ohio, and has ever since made his home within the state of Ohio. From 1870 to 1882 he was clerking in London, Ohio, and then, having been frugal and industrious, he had saved sufficient money to start in business for himself, and opened a clothing house there, which he successfully conducted until the year 1891. In 1891 he closed out his business in London, and came to Findlay, and a year later opened a grocery store which he still continues to manage, and in which business he has been highly succesful.

Mr. Wolff was married at Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 1881, to Leonora Morgenroth, and they have one daughter, Sarah Wolff.

Mr. Wolff is a stanch Republican in politics, and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

BAKER DAILEY.

A stranger driving through the beautiful county of Hancock cannot help being impressed with the healthfulness of the section, for he will meet with more gray heads to the square mile than in any other section of the state. They are hale and hearty people, some of whom have passed from seven to nine decades in agricultural pursuits in the county. We here present for the consideration of our readers one of this class of citizens, who is a well known farmer of Cass township, and a man of fine repute in the neighborhood. He is a direct descendant of D. J. and Mary Elizabeth (Hale) Dailey. The former of whom was born in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1811, and came with his parents and other members of the family to Hancock county, and located near the center of Washington township in 1825. The latter was a native of Virginia was born in 1815, near Wheeling; she came to this county with her brother Baker, and located in the center of Washington township, where Baker Hale entered one hundred and sixty acres of uncultivated land from the government about 1830. Later in life D. J. Dailey and Mary E. Hale were united in marriage, and made a purchase of their own of eighty acres, which was in time brought under subjection. Mr. Dailey was a hard working man, as indeed all pioneers were in that age, and he labored hard to clear his farm, and to rear his family of ten children, four of whom survive, Baker, Samuel, Alonzo and Margaret. The father and mother were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the former affiliated with the Whigs, politically, and in his time was a man of influence in his community, some of the offices

of which he administered. He died February 23, 1890, and his wife June 8, 1883.

Baker Dailey was born in Washington township, November 24, 1839. Here he was reared amidst pioneer scenes, and under the sturdy and severe discipline of the farm developed that strong manhood which has been so characteristic of him during his life. He received excellent educational advantages, securing his scholastic discipline in the common schools, and completing his literary education in the schools of Fostoria and Findlay, where he fitted himself for the profession of teacher, entering the field in his nineteenth year. For a period of fifteen years thereafter he was a successful and popular teacher of the district schools in Hancock county. He kept his connection, however, with the agricultural interests by working on a farm in the summer, and he finally abandoned the schoolroom and gave his entire attention to the farm. His first purchase of real estate was made in 1868, when he made a modest beginning with eight acres. He now owns a farm which is valuable not only as farming land, but because of its situation in the oil belt of Hancock county. This farm was purchased in 1878.

Mr. Dailey, while not a politician in any sense of the world, has always manifested a disposition to do his share of the work necessary to carry on a rural community, and has been trusted with some of the offices of the township. He was married on the 6th of November, 1862, to Mahala Fisher, the daughter of Samuel and Margaret Fisher, members of the Presbyterian church. Her birth occurred in Carroll county, Ohio, January 9, 1840, and she has borne her husband the following children: E. T., born October 10, 1863; E. A., August 16, 1865; Wilbert B., July 16, 1867; S. C., May 12, 1869; J. H., June 24, 1871; Maggie F., March 13, 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Baker Dailey are both members of the Methodist church and are held in high esteem in their immediate community, and their good offices and acts of friendship are returned in kind by the host of friends who love to do them honor.

JACOB E. POWELL, M. D.

Dr. J. E. Powell was born in Eagle township, Hancock county, Ohio, April 15, 1861. Being a farmer's son and one of the eldest of a family of thirteen children and with no other means of assistance at command than the earnings of his own labor, he enjoys the distinction of rising from the humble position of a farm laborer to be a member of the prominent profession of physicians and surgeons, enjoying the confidence and patronage of the com-

munity to the fullest extent. His early and primary education was received in the common district school, and this was sufficient to prepare him to engage in teaching, thirteen successive terms having been taught in surrounding districts, while his leisure hours and vacations were spent in preparing for the contemplated course in medicine. Dr. Powell is a charter member of Findlay College, and continued in the first class that was ever instructed in that institution until his final preparation for medical instruction, when he went to Baltimore, Maryland, and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating therein in March, 1890. In June of the same year he located in Findlay, where he has continued the practice of his profession until the present time. In political and social affairs, on account of the duties incident to a busy man in his profession, Dr. Powell has been compelled to remain indifferent, yet he was elected coroner of Hancock county in 1892, and held that office for two years. He was a mamber of the Ohio State Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the Hancock Medical Society, but in the year 1900 he severed his connection with these honorable bodies for the purpose of commercial privileges which were barred by medical ethics. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is active in the work of this body. Dr. Powell was married November 6, 1887, to Eva J., daughter of Jacob Oman, of Bluffton, Indiana, and their home has been blessed with one daughter, Hazel Marie Powell, born January 30, 1892, and who has added greatly to their cheerful and happy home.

The ancestors and name of the Powell family originated in Scotland, but the present generation is descended from the mingling of Scotch and German people, who formed the early settlers of Pennsylvania, and it was there that Daniel L. Powell, the father of Dr. Powell, was born in 1829. With his parents and three brothers he came to Hancock county in 1836 and entered government land in Eagle township, where he still resides, and he is doubtless the only citizen in the township or perhaps in the county who resides on the same farm which he received from the government, and upon which he has lived for more than half a century and watched the formation of a beautiful country from a wilderness. The perseverance and constant diligence in one who rears himself from the hardships of pioneer life to professional standing equal to that of Dr. Powell is worthy of the reward of a happy home with a bright and cheerful wife and daughter, as he enjoys, and this home, with its companions, is his greatest pride and delight. But next in life is a principle which he maintains, that he must add to the profession to which he belongs something which is new and of value to the coming generation or his life will have been wasted or of no value to the world.

PHILIP B. OLIVER.

Philip B. Oliver, who now fills the office of city bill-poster in Findlay, Ohio, is a well known citizen and an honored survivor of the Civil war. He was born in South Whitley, Indiana, in 1847, and is a son of James B. Oliver.

James B. Oliver was born in Dayton, Ohio, where his father, Philip Oliver, was an old citizen, and was reared in a frugal home. During his youth he was ambitious to obtain an education, and at one time chopped cord wood in order to obtain money with which to enter Wittenberg College, although he received but twenty-five cents a cord. Until he entered the army in 1862, for service in the Civil war, he engaged in farming. Mr. Oliver became a member of Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was detailed as wagon boss, serving thus for two years and four months. At the same time his son Charles E. enlisted in the same company, as a private. At Hatcher's Run he lost his right leg. He recovered from the injury, however, and at the time of his death, in May, 1901, was auditor of Potter county, South Dakota. During the army service of James B. Oliver, he was taken sick, in 1863, and was sent to the hospital at Frederick, Maryland. His wife left her home duties, at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and hastened to him, where, on account of the scarcity of nurses, she was impressed and kept for six months. Although the government failed to recompense her, there is no doubt that many a poor sick soldier blessed her for her womanly ministrations.

While our subject was still quite small, his parents moved to Liberty, Indiana, and eight years later to Dayton, Ohio, and the year following to Upper Sandusky. There he was given school advantages and there, on May 2, 1864, he enlisted in the army, in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in as a musician. His entrance into the regiment, however, was on account of a feeling of patriotism, and two weeks later he threw his fife into the Monocacy river. The adjutant of his regiment soon demanded an explanation, and he told him that he had enlisted to fight, and wanted a gun. From that time until his capture by the enemy he did his share of fighting. On August 13, 1864, he was made a prisoner, at Barryville, Virginia, by General Mosby, and was marched to Culpeper Court House and thence sent by train to Lynchburg and two weeks later to Belle Isle. Six weeks later he was sent to Salisbury, North Carolina, and on April 10, 1865, was sent to a point near Wilmington and given his liberty. Finally our subject made his way to Annapolis, Maryland, and thence to Columbus, Ohio, where he was

discharged on April 20, 1865. During his captivity his weight had changed from about one hundred and thirty-two pounds to sixty-three pounds, which is commentary enough upon the treatment he received.

Our subject returned to Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and began the carpenter trade two years later, at Dayton, and four years later went back to Upper Sandusky. There he followed farming until 1883 and then moved to Findlay where he engaged for a time in the sale of bicycles. Two years after he became the manager of the Davis opera house, in conjunction with Dr. J. H. Boyer, but two years after embarked in his present line. He is a man of energy and good business ability, is well known and popular and has made a success of his present enterprise.

In 1876 our subject was married at Tiffin, Ohio, to Miss Dora A. Stimmel, and the one daughter born to this union bears the name of Nellie. In politics Mr. Oliver has been a life-long supporter of the Republican party. He is a valued comrade of Stoker Post, No. 54, Grand Army of the Republic, and also belongs to the local lodge of Elks.

GEORGE W. WHITMAN.

A well known and much respected business citizen of Findlay, Ohio, is George W. Whitman, whose great-grandfather was of English birth, but emigrated to America in colonial days and settled in Vermont. There his grandfather, Daniel Whitman, was born and took part as a soldier in the war of 1812.

The birth of George W. Whitman occurred on a farm, near Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1852, and he is a son of Selden and Lavina (Sterling) Whitman, the former of whom was born in 1821, in Vermont, and was taken by his parents to Pennsylvania when he was a boy. He has followed farming all his life, and now resides in Forest county, Pennsylvania, a respected member of his community. His venerable wife also survives. They were the parents of fourteen children, six sons and three daughters still surviving.

When George Whitman had completed his education in the country schools in his vicinity and had attained the age of seventeen years, he left home and went to seek work in the Pennsylvania oil fields, commencing as a tool dresser, then working as a driller. He remained there until 1881, having commenced producing in 1878. In 1881 Mr. Whitman went to the oil fields of Allegany county, New York. He had gained a wide practical experience and was immediately engaged as a producer, and later was made superintendent of the I. E. Ackerly Oil Company. In 1888 he came

to Findlay, and has been a producer ever since. In 1894 he enlarged his interests by becoming a wholesale coal dealer, and in 1901 he added a retail branch. Mr. Whitman is a man of business acumen and activity. He possesses the safe judgment which insures success.

In 1878, in Bradford, Pennsylvania, Mr. Whitman was united in marriage with Miss Lena Martin, who was born in Corning, New York, and the following interesting family has been born to this union: Fred D., Eva L., Lily M., Harry F., Frances L., and Goldie I. In the political arena our subject is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He is active in several of the leading fraternal organizations, belonging to the Knights Templar, the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World. For some years he has been one of the leading members of the Methodist church, and in every way is an estimable citizen. The family is highly regarded and prominent in the city's social life.

AUGUSTUS M. SMITH.

Among the marble and granite workers and dealers in Findlay, Ohio, Augustus M. Smith takes a leading position, on account of the taste he displays in designing and the perfection of the work he executes.

The birth of Mr. Smith took place in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1854, and he is the son of John and Sarah J. (Hopkins) Smith, the former of whom was born in 1832, in Pennsylvania, and died in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1855. By trade he was a tailor. He left two children, our subject, and his sister Fannie, who married Frank R. Price, and died in 1895, leaving three children, namely: Marian, Charles and Arthur, in their home in Cleveland. Mrs. Smith married Alfred H. Slack and they have one son, Fred H., and reside in Findlay.

Augustus M. Smith was but a babe when his parents moved to Dayton, Ohio, where he remained until he was about seven years old. Then with his widowed mother he went to Indianapolis, Indiana, and lived there until 1869, when they removed to Cleveland, Ohio. In the former city he had commenced to learn the stone cutter's trade and completed his apprenticeship in Cleveland, becoming so competent a workman that when he came to Findlay in 1875, he was placed in charge of the large marble shop of Louthan & Son, remaining with that firm from July 1, 1875, until January 1, 1881. At this date he began business on his own account and has prospered exceeding.

In 1873, in Monroe, Michigan, our subject was married to Miss Letty M. Davis, and two children were born to this union, the one survivor being

Frank E. Mr. Smith was married a second time in 1890, in Wapakoneta, Ohio, to Miss Julia A. Myer, and the two children born to this union are Harry A. and Chester P. In fraternal life, Mr. Smith belongs to the Odd Fellows, the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He is a very highly esteemed citizen of Findlay.

ALBERT C. MATTHIAS, M. D.

One of the best known citizens of Hancock county is Dr. Albert C. Matthias, of McComb, who has attained distinction in professional circles, and is a prominent representative of several fraternal organizations. Forceful individuality and keen insight, combined with practical common sense, are the strong traits in his character which have served to win for him a high place in various circles.

He was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1844, on a farm that was entered from the government by his grandfather, Daniel Matthias, in 1806. The latter, born in Pennsylvania about 1762, was a son of Daniel Matthias, Sr., a native of Alsace-Lorraine. He became the founder of the family in Ohio and was closely identified with the pioneer development of this part of the state, his death occurring about 1853.

Jacob Matthias, the father of our subject, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1803, and was brought by his parents to Ohio in 1806, becoming a resident of Hancock county in 1849. After residing for a long period in this county he removed to Cambria, Michigan, in 1866, and there his death occurred in 1881. He had followed agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life. He had seven children, as follows: Jesse A., who died in 1888, at the age of sixty-four years, was a private of Company D, Ninety-fourth Illinois Infantry, serving from 1861 until 1864, most of the time with the heavy artillery forces; Henry H. served for one hundred days as a private of Company G, One Hundred and Fiftieth Ohio Infantry; Julia is the wife of B. F. Showlty, of Pioneer, Ohio; Susan is the wife of J. H. Hickerson, of McComb; Lydia A. is the widow of George D. Wickman, of Hancock county, Ohio; the Doctor is the next younger; Jacob Frank resides in Fairbury, Nebraska. The mother of these children, who bore the maiden name of Mary Stambaugh, died in 1878, at the age of sixty-five years.

When about five years of age the Doctor was brought by his parents to Hancock county and was reared to the age of fifteen in Blanchard township, attending the country schools and thereby laying the foundation for his more advanced education. At the age of fifteen he came to McComb and entered

the general store of B. F. Sholty, as salesman, clerking for him for two years, but the Civil war came on and he put aside all business and personal considerations in order to aid his country, enlisting in Company K, Sixty-fifth Ohio Infantry, as a private. He served until February, 1865, when he was honorably discharged on account of disability occasioned by wounds, holding, at the time, the rank of corporal. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Rocky Face Ridge and Resaca. At the last named he was shot in the right elbow, which ended his service. He was commended for gallantry in that engagement by Colonel David E. Moore, commanding the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Ohio, and our subject would have been promoted had he been able to remain in the service. After being wounded he was sent to Chattanooga, where he lay in the hospital for ten weeks and was then sent to Nashville, Tennessee. Five or six weeks later he was transferred to the hospital in Jeffersonville, Indiana, where he remained until October, 1864, and was then sent to Cleveland, Ohio.

While there during the winter of 1864-5, Dr. Matthias attended medical lectures at Cleveland Medical College, and in February, 1865, he received his discharge by Dr. George M. Sternberg, now surgeon general of the United States army. Dr. Charles C. Byrne, who performed the operation upon our subject at Chattanooga, is now the first assistant surgeon general of the United States army.

Dr. Matthias was graduated in medicine at the Western Reserve University in the year 1869 and at once located in Gilboa, this state, where he remained in successful practice until 1897 when he came to McComb, Hancock county, where he has already gained recognition as a practitioner whose skill is above the average and whose ability is constantly augmented by reading and investigation. Membership in leading medical societies, wherein there is an interchange of thought and experience, has also led to the advancement of Dr. Matthias in his chosen calling. He belongs to the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the Ohio State Medical society, and for three years, while residing in Gilboa, he was the president of the Putnam County Medical Society.

Doctor Matthias was married in 1861, in Leipsic, Ohio, to Eleanor Harris, and they have six children, four of whom are now living: Elva C., Everett H., Mary M. and Edward S. The daughter is the wife of Dr. M. A. Darbyshire, of McComb. Edward, who is now a practicing attorney in Van Wert county, Ohio, was captain of Company D, Second Regiment, Ohio Infantry, in the Spanish-American war, serving for ten months.

In political circles Dr. Matthias is quite prominent. He served for twenty-four years as councilman in Gilboa and is now a member of the city council of McComb. For two years and seven months he was mayor of Gilboa and for six years was president of the board of education there. In 1899 he was elected justice of the peace by both parties, as the Democrats would place no nominee in the field against him. For eight years he was a member of the United States pension examining board at Ottawa, Ohio, and for three years was its president. The Doctor belongs to John Howard Post, No. 154, Grand Army of the Republic, in which he has held all of the higher offices and is now serving his sixteenth term as commander of his post. From 1884 until 1885 he was medical director of the department of Ohio. He belongs to the lodge, chapter and council in Masonry, is also a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and for three years was captain of the uniform rank at Leipsic. He has passed all the chairs in the Odd Fellows fraternity, in both the lodge and the encampment. Few men are more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of McComb than Dr. Matthias. He has been an important factor in professional and social circles and his popularity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He is public-spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of his town and McComb numbers him among her valued citizens.

GEORGE W. HALL.

George W. Hall, one of Findlay's leading merchants, and a successful business man, was born on his father's farm in Amanda township, Hancock county, Ohio, in the year 1854, and was one of a large family of children. Mr. Hall lived on the home farm until he was fifteen years of age, attending the neighborhood schools. He then went to Lawrence, Kansas, and clerked in a shoe store for three years, learning the business. Returning to Findlay, Ohio, and not feeling that he was competent to entirely manage a business for himself yet, he entered a shoe store there and clerked for five years longer, thus fitting himself more fully, and at the same time saving money with a view to owning his own business in future. At the end of the five years, having been frugal and industrious, and having laid by sufficient means for a start in life, he went into the shoe business with his brother, W. S. Hall, which firm continued for three years under the name of Hall Brothers. In

1894 Mr. Hall bought out his brother's interest, and since that time has managed and owned the business himself.

Mr. Hall was married in 1878, in Findlay, Ohio, to Lottie, daughter of M. B. Patterson, and they have one son, George E. Hall. He is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and is a Republican in politics.

Mr. Hall is of Irish descent, his father, Richard Hall, being born in Ireland and coming to America in his boyhood located in Hancock county, Ohio. He married Eliza Maley, who still survives, and they had ten children, of whom five are now living.

Mr. Hall is prospering in his business, his patronage is increasing, and his genial, kindly manner, and native Irish wit, have gained him many friends in the community.

HARLAN F. BURKET.

The law is a profession whose requirements are constantly increasing. In the early history of this country the attorney and also the jurist was as primitive in his mental makeup as was the country in its material development, many stories being told of the crude methods of justice in those times and of the curious characters who enjoyed the sounding title of judge or squire. But the profession is itself more strict as to the admission of new members to the ranks and we now find some of our most learned men among the lawyers of the land. Harlan F. Burket is one of the leading attorneys of the county of Hancock, Ohio, and has not only found a foremost place among the members of his profession but has shown much interest in other affairs and is possessed of a fine, all-around character.

Mr. Burket is the son of Hon. Jacob F. Burket and was born in Findlay, Hancock county, May 15, 1860. After completing the common school course he went to Oberlin College, where he was graduated in the class of 1882. Mr. Burket has always been studiously inclined, and since leaving college has kept up his interest in geology and archeology; on account of his work in these lines he has been twice honored with degrees from his alma mater, in 1890 the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy having been conferred upon him, and in 1891 the degree of Master of Arts. After the completion of his college course he began the study of law in the office of his father at Findlay and on October 6, 1887, he was admitted to the bar of the state. He at once entered into partnership with his father under the name of Burket & Burket, and the firm was continued until the election of his father to the supreme

H. F. Burket.

Augusta Burket

bench of the state in 1893, since which time he has practiced alone. Mr. Burket has met with marked success as a lawyer. He has been able to see into the merits of a case almost intuitively and has formed his arguments in such a logical succession and presented them with such earnest and forceful eloquence that he has seldom failed to convince the court of the merits of his side. His great knowledge of legal precedent and his recognized power as an advocate have given him a well deserved place among the legal fraternity of the county.

Mr. Burket has been one of the leading Republicans for a number of years and was an active party worker until the election of his father to the supreme bench, but since then he has been closely confined to the practice of his profession. He is one of the many who believe that a healthy interest in political affairs is the duty of every citizen and since 1877 he has been present at the conventions of his party and has been recognized as an able and effective speaker. In 1890 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the county and gave a very capable administration for three years, but refused another nomination because of the pressure of business at his father's leaving the firm. He has been director of the American National Bank at Findlay for the past ten years and since 1895 has been its vice president. Mr. Burket is also connected with various fraternal organizations, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, and the Masonic order, in which he has passed the chivalric degrees and is now a Knight Templar. Mr. Burket was married in Findlay, January 16, 1895, to Augusta Dukes, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; she is a daughter of Cyrus Dukes, deceased, a member of one of the oldest and most influential families in Hancock county. They are now the parents of one son, Jacob F., Jr., who was born January 28, 1897.

ROBERT H. FITZGERALD.

One of the manufacturing industries which has greatly increased the wealth of the state of Ohio is the rectifying of coal oil or petroleum. When, within the last decade, oil was struck, and a new oil field found in Ohio, it brought into the state oil men, or producers, from the older oil regions of Pennsylvania. Robert H. Fitzgerald, of Findlay, Ohio, is an oil producer who was reared in the oil regions and grew up in the business. He was born at Rouseville, Venango county, Pennsylvania, in 1869, from which place he moved when in infancy to various other points in the oil regions of Pennsylvania, where his father lived, and was engaged in the oil business; and Robert Fitzgerald, himself, went into the oil business when only eighteen

years of age. He settled in Findlay, Ohio, in the year 1890, and has lived there ever since, engaged in producing oil.

Mr. Fitzgerald was married January 18, 1899, in Findlay, Ohio, to Margaret T., daughter of William F. Kearns, and they have one son, Robert Francis Fitzgerald, born December 20, 1899.

Robert Fitzgerald, father of our subject, born in Rochester, New York, in 1842, was one of the original oil men in Pennsylvania, and is still engaged in that business. He was married in 1863 to Agnes Dowrey and they had five children, all living. Our subject's grandfather, Robert Fitzgerald, was born in county Clare, Ireland, in 1816, emigrated to America in 1831, and located at first in Canada, where he was employed as foreman in the construction of the old Erie Canal. Later, he went to New York and engaged in farming, in which occupation he spent the remainder of his days. He died at Ellicottville, New York, in 1880.

Robert H. Fitzgerald holds to the faith of his ancestors, and belongs to the Roman Catholic church. Fraternally he is connected with the Elks, Knights of Columbus and Maccabees. Though still a young man, Mr. Fitzgerald has won the respect of his fellow citizens, and is known throughout Hancock county as one who thoroughly understands his work, which has developed a very profitable industry for the people of Findlay and Hancock county generally.

ALFRED H. BALSLEY.

To the deep student of the many forces which move and propagate our national, political, social and moral life it must appear that the modern newspaper is one of the most considerable factors, acting upon the masses, as the great Napoleon well recognized, with more power than an army; and it must, therefore, bring to the editor, whether in the local or larger fields of journalism, a feeling of pride as well as responsibility when he considers the instrument of molding public opinion which has been placed in his hands. And one of the enterprising and progressive journals of the twentieth century civilization in Hancock county, Ohio, is the "Jeffersonian" of Findlay, owned and edited by the subject of this sketch.

Alfred H. Balsley comes of a good old family, his maternal grandfather Miller having been one of the patriots of the war of the Revolution, and his father, Michael Balsley, who was a native of the state of Pennsylvania, was a soldier in the war of 1812. The birthplace of our subject was in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and the date the 15th of December, 1828. There

he lived up to his twenty-fourth year, taking advantage of such educational opportunities as he could obtain. He early decided to learn the printer's trade and in 1841 entered the office of the "Daily Chronicle," where he remained two years, mastering the details of that craft. For two years thereafter he was engaged in learning the nailer's trade and from 1847 to 1851 was employed in the nail works at Pittsburg. In the latter year he entered the office of the "Pittsburg Dispatch" and worked there as a compositor until 1853, when a strike occurred and Mr. Balsley came to Painesville, Ohio. He bought the "Grand River Record," a weekly Democratic organ, but at the end of six months sold it, and went with it to St. Clairsville, Belmont county, Ohio, and continued in the capacity of manager for two years. In the fall of 1855 he became the owner of the "Plymouth Advertiser" at Plymouth, Ohio, a former proprietor of which paper had been the well known David R. Locke, more familiarly known as "Petroleum V. Nasby." Mr. Balsley remained in control of the "Advertiser" for thirteen years, and then selling out bought the "Fremont Journal," a weekly, and carried it on for seven years. Mr. Balsley has been the owner of the "Jeffersonian" since 1876. It was at first a weekly, but in November, 1880, he established a daily and conducted the two papers with gratifying success until January 7, 1902, when he sold out and retired. The "Jeffersonian," under his management, was an advocate of Republican principles, but was always ready to take a determined stand on the side of good government, regardless of partisan influences.

From 1861 to 1869 Mr. Balsley was postmaster of the town of Plymouth, and since taking up his residence in Findlay has served in the city council several times. Fraternally he is a member of the ancient order of Masons and for many years has been a member of the I. O. O. F.

WILLIAM H. McELWAINE.

The bar of Findlay has always ranked well in the state, and some of its members have reached exalted positions both in the judiciary and the field of politics. The present chief justice of the Ohio supreme court is a Findlay lawyer, and both of the great parties have for years been in the habit of seeking for bright lights among the practitioners of this progressive city. It takes ability and energy to succeed in competition with such men, as there is no profession to which the doctrine of the survival of the fittest may be so appropriately applied as to that of the law. Therefore even to hold one's own among such a brilliant coterie of legal geniuses is no mean performance, while to be able to advance well toward the front is an achieve-

ment of which one may well feel proud, and this praise seems justly due to Mr. McElwaine after fifteen years' practice at the Findlay bar.

His family is of Scottish origin, the American branch being founded by Richard McElwaine, who came from Scotland when a young man and settled in Pennsylvania in the early part of the nineteenth century. His son, James McElwaine, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, and at the age of fifteen years accompanied his parents on their removal to Mercer county. His first business venture after growing up was as a merchant at Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania, where he remained many years and eventually met his death in 1888. In 1834 he married Penelope J. Long, and became the father of nine children, of whom six are now living, and among them the subject of this sketch.

William H. McElwaine was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1859, but in early infancy was taken by his parents to the village of Sandy Lake, where he continued to reside until reaching his majority. Meantime he had attended the common schools, improved his opportunities by diligence and after a course at Washington and Jefferson College was graduated by that institution in 1885. Immediately after leaving college he began the study of law in the office of John Smith at Mercer, Pennsylvania, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1887. In the spring of the following year he located at Findlay and entered actively upon the practice of his profession, which he has continued up to the present time with increasing success, and is now regarded as one of the best lawyers in Hancock county. In 1887 Mr. McElwaine was married at Oil City, Pennsylvania, to Miss Nellie Nelson, who died in Findlay on the 8th of January, 1892, leaving two daughters, Jean M. and Mary M. Mr. McElwaine's religious affiliations are with the Presbyterians, and he is regular in his attendance at the church of that denomination. In politics his predilections have always been Republican, and he lends to the principles of that great party his most zealous support and intelligent advocacy.

SIMON WOLF.

Simon Wolf, a well-known and respected farmer of Hancock county, Ohio, residing upon his farm in Marion township, is a practical agriculturist, having devoted the most part of his life to the tilling of the soil.

The birth of Mr. Wolf was in 1834, in Stark county, Ohio, and he is a son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Hopple) Wolf, who removed to Findlay, Ohio, when their son was about sixteen years of age.

Simon attended school both in Stark and in Hancock counties, Ohio, and has always been identified with farming interests since completing his education. His productive farm is located in Marion township. He is a leading member of the Methodist church in Findlay, has acceptably held the position of school director and served his township as supervisor.

In 1855 Mr. Wolf was married to Miss Elizabeth Folk, who died October 21, 1885. The second marriage of Mr. Wolf was to Mrs. Maria Lanning September 7, 1890. The eight children born to his first marriage are: Irwin, John, Nelson, Sophronia, Sarah, Lemuel, Solomon and Clifford. The family is much esteemed in the community and they have a wide circle of friends.

ELIJAH T. DUNN.

In reviewing the prominent members of the Hancock bar the name of Elijah T. Dunn takes precedence of many of his professional brethren, and we are pleased to present to his numerous friends and acquaintances a sketch of his useful life. The ancestry of the Dunn family is traced back to about 1720, when George Dunn, with two brothers, all Protestants, came from near Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, to Long Island. One brother subsequently settled in New Jersey, while George took up his abode in Maryland, and from these brothers the Dunns of Hamilton county, Ohio, Indiana and a part of those in Kentucky, Virginia and Pennsylvania derive their descent. George Dunn was a Baptist minister, and he carried "the glad tidings of great joy" west of the Allegheny mountains into what, in his honor, was called Dunn's Gap. The date of his birth, death and marriage and the name of his wife are unknown. His son, also named George, became a farmer near Harper's Ferry, in Maryland or Virginia. By his wife, Susanna, he had four sons and two daughters, namely: John, who died in Washington county, Maryland, about 1831; George; Jacob, who died in Knox county, Ohio, about 1862; Peter, who died in Kentucky a few years before the war of the rebellion; Catherine, who married James Schnebly, and with him settled near Xenia, Ohio; and Mary (or Polly), who married a Mr. Elam and settled in western Ohio. The father of this family departed this life on the 22d of February, 1817, while his wife was called to her final rest on the 27th of April, 1811.

George Dunn, the second son of the second George Dunn and the third bearing the name, was born in Washington county, Maryland, January 8, 1779, and his death occurred in Wood county, Ohio, on the 13th of De-

cember, 1865. He was married near the close of the eighteenth century to Sarah Mills, who was born in 1776, and died in 1845. Their children, all born in Maryland, were as follows: Robert, who was born September 8, 1798, and died on the 21st of August, 1872, married Mary Forsyth; John, who was born December 1, 1799, and died March 9, 1851, married Elizabeth D. Boolman; Susanna died on the 7th of August, 1802, in infancy; Jacob, who was born July 8, 1803, and died in 1879, married Sally Boolman; George, who was born February 20, 1805, and died in 1881, married Rachel Mills; James, born February 20, 1807, and died March 16, 1867, married Margaret Coplin; Moses, who was born January 20, 1809, and died August 22, 1829, never married; William, who was born January 29, 1811, died before marriage on the 1st of February, 1859; Maria, who was born December 16, 1812, alone survives, and is the widow of Jonathan Dean; Elizabeth, born June 19, 1814, died January 31, 1817; and Peter, who was born May 4, 1816, and died August 19, 1855, never married.

John Dunn, the second son of the third George Dunn, married Elizabeth Dorothea Boolman, who was born in Washington county, Maryland, January 1, 1803. Her father, Nicholas Boolman, was born about 1774, and his father came from Germany to Maryland about 1765. Nicholas Boolman married Magdalene Troxel, who was born about the same time as her husband, and but little is known of her family history. The children of Nicholas and Magdalene Boolman were as follows: Catharine, who was born about 1796, married Hiram Lynch; Samuel, who was born in 1798, and died in 1864, was twice married, the wives being sisters, and the last wife bore the name of Sarah A.; Jacob, who was born in 1800, and died before marriage, in 1817; Elizabeth D., born January 1, 1803, married John Dunn, and died in March, 1883; Sally, born in 1804, and died in 1856, married Jacob Dunn, a brother of John Dunn; and Nancy, who was born about 1806, died in 1822. John Dunn, with his wife and their three eldest children and his father, George Dunn, removed from Maryland to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1826. From there they removed to Greene county, this state, thence to Knox county, Ohio, and in 1844 came to Wood county, where he died as above stated. The children of John and Elizabeth D. Dunn are as follows: Ann, born December 5, 1820, married Adam Cosner on the 15th of April, 1841; Jacob (B.), born September 30, 1823, married Angeline Culp September 23, 1847; Joseph, born January 1, 1826, married Mary Niebel April 12, 1883; George, born October 3, 1827, died August 29, 1855, unmarried; Maria, born September 22, 1829, married Wilson Stretcher July 20, 1865; Aaron, born December 16, 1831, died October 20, 1846, unmarried; Sam-

uel, born May 4, 1834, married Margaret Bishop March 3, 1859; Phebe, born May 7, 1836, married Joseph Hoot July 7, 1861; Nathaniel, born September 5, 1838, died October 14, 1846; Elijah (T.), born June 20, 1840, married Martha I. Strother January 12, 1865; Mary Magdalene, born June 5, 1842, died October 17, 1846; John (R.), born March 24, 1844, died August 11, 1865, unmarried; and Thomas Corwin, born November 3, 1847, was married on the 9th of March, 1871, to Emma T. Lewis. The above names, not including the initials in brackets, are those by which the children were christened, the initials "B., T. and R." being afterward chosen by Jacob, Elijah and John partly to aid in distinguishing from others having similar first initials and partly to preserve traces of the old family names of Boolman, Troxel and Rench, though in what way they are related to the latter family does not appear in the records. The mother was also related to the Hagers, from one of whom Hagerstown, Maryland, was named. A family of the name of Chambers, of Chambersburg, was also in some way connected with the ancestry.

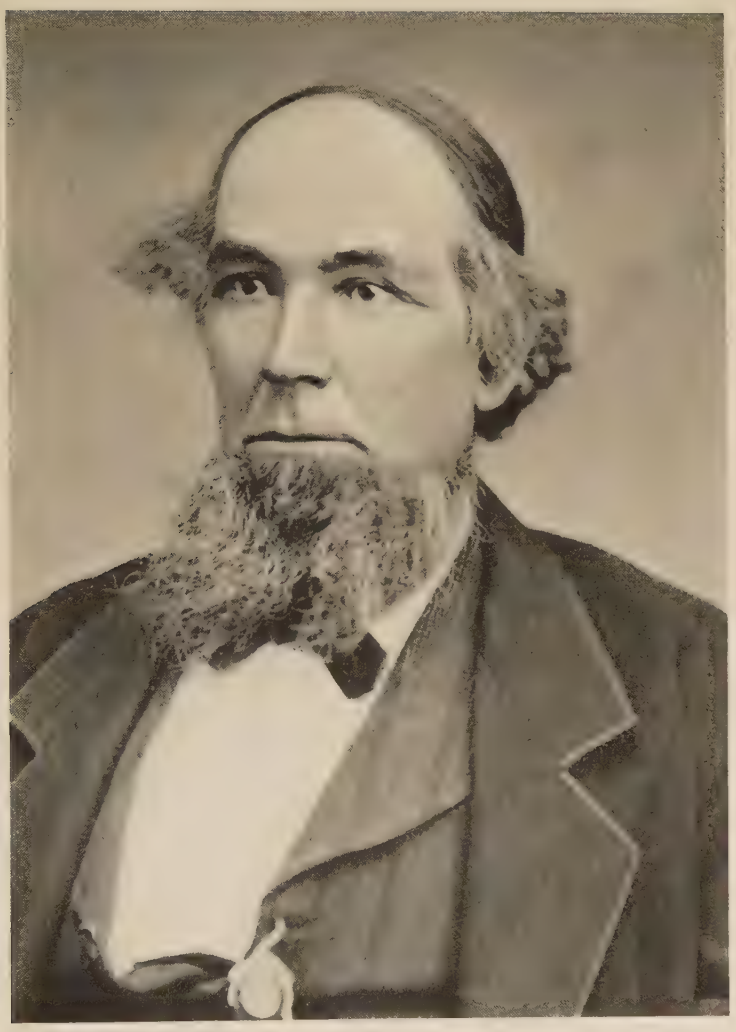
Elijah T. Dunn, a son of John and Elizabeth D. Dunn, accompanied his parents on their removal to Wood county, Ohio, in 1844, a location being made in what was then known as the "Black Swamp," where, around a hickory bark fire and with three terms in a winter school, his early education was completed. At the age of thirteen he entered the office of the Herald of Freedom, at Wilmington, and became an expert printer. Subsequently he taught several terms of school in Clark and Hancock counties, pursuing in the meantime the study of law. On the outbreak of the rebellion he united with the Union party while yet a minor, and did service for a short time as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteers. Becoming unable to perform duty as a soldier, however, he continued for a time in a clerkship in the quartermaster's department at Nashville, Tennessee, and thence, returning to Findlay, he completed his law course, being admitted to the bar on the 2d of August, 1862. He was at that time twenty-two years of age, and he immediately located for practice at Findlay, where he has ever since been identified with the legal profession. Besides conducting a large law practice Mr. Dunn owns and controls a good farm and devotes considerable attention to fine cattle. He is a stockholder and director in the Farmers National Bank, a director and secretary of the Findlay Gas Light Company and of the Findlay Oil and Gas Company, and is president of the Wood and Hancock Oil and Gas Company. Much of his attention is devoted to financial matters, but at the same time he favors public

improvement and on all questions involving public enterprises he takes a leading and aggressive part.

On the 12th of January, 1865, Mr. Dunn was married to Martha I., a daughter of Anthony Strother, of Findlay, and they have had three sons: Bernard L., John A. and James C. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the former is also affiliated with Stoker Post, G. A. R., and Hancock Lodge, I. O. O. F. He votes with the Republican party, and, although not a politician, he has held the offices of justice of the peace and collector of internal revenue. He is a member of one of the oldest and most highly respected families of the Buckeye state, and as far back as they are known it may be said that they have been honest, industrious and intelligent, and never was one convicted of crime. They have never become distinguished, but along the vale of life have kept the even tenor of their way.

ANDREW WISEMAN.

The Wiseman family was one of the first in Hancock county, and is identified with its religious growth, and social development. We find Isaac Wiseman, the great-grandfather of Andrew, subsequent to the Revolutionary war, in Virginia, to which state he removed from Berks county, Pennsylvania. The descendants of this same Isaac Wiseman number over one thousand souls. One of his sons, the Rev. John Wiseman, a prominent Methodist preacher, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in 1762. He was a brave follower of Washington in his struggle for freedom, in whose services he remained for six years, experiencing with other patriots the severe and rigid winter spent at Valley Forge. Rev. John Wiseman was united in marriage to Sara Green, by whom he had ten children, The family removed from Virginia to Perry county, Ohio, in 1822. John was ordained by Bishop Asbury, who also furnished him with a special license to marry. He was a good preacher, a faithful follower of the Master, and consistent in his every day life. He died in Perry county in 1833, his wife Sara having outlived him some nine years, and dying at the extreme old age of ninety-four. Of this family was James G., the father of Andrew and Joseph Wiseman. James G. was born in Virginia, August 14, 1793, and when he came to maturity he married Elizabeth Summers, the marriage taking place in 1814. Mrs. Wiseman was a native of the old Dominion state, where she had been born November 17, 1795. Their children's names were John, Andrew, James G., Samuel, George W., Joseph J., Margaret A., Simon



Your Truly
Andrew Jackson
85 yrs old

O., Eliza, Sara, Rebecca, Emily E., Mary A. James G., the father of this family, served in the war of 1812. He was a blacksmith by trade and was a good mechanic in his day, whose services were in great demand in the early pioneer period, when mechanics were scarce. He removed from Perry to Hancock county in June, 1831, and located in Washington township, where he entered two hundred and forty acres of government land, upon which he erected in 1843 a substantial brick residence. For long years it was one of the best residence properties in the county. During his life time he and his sons cleared the farm. James G. Wiseman was a man of considerable influence in his day, a good and loyal citizen, and was honored by being entrusted with some of the township offices. He was an honest man, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which body he was highly respected. He died in 1872 at the advanced age of eighty years. His wife, Elizabeth S., died six years later. Of their thirteen children, only three are now living: Andrew, Joseph and Angeline. Five of the sons served their country in the Civil war, and four of them died from the effects of the rigorous service. Besides those five brothers, the husbands of two of the daughters and one nephew served gallantly in the ranks. Surely the patriotic blood of John Wiseman of Revolutionary fame must have coursed through the veins of his descendants. The names of the five brothers who offered themselves as a sacrifice on the altar of their country were: James, Samuel, George, Andrew and Simon. Samuel and Simon lost their lives in battle at Shiloh.

Andrew Wiseman, one of the surviving members of this family, whose name heads this biography, was born in Madison county, Ohio, September 28, 1817. He was thirteen years of age when he came to Hancock county, and his early life was spent in the severe labor of clearing a pioneer farm. As stated previously, his inherent patriotism was signally exemplified at the outbreak of the Civil war when he enlisted as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This company joined the fortunes of the army of the Cumberland, where it served for three years, participating in nearly all of the most prominent battles. At the battle of Nashville, Andrew was disabled, and incapacitated for active duty for quite a period. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of corporal and frequently acted in the higher position of sergeant. He was honorably discharged at Huntsville, Alabama, in 1862. On return to civil life he took up his former vocation, that of a farmer, which he has continued to the present time. In 1846 Mr. Wiseman was united in wedlock to Miss Louise Smith, who died without issue in 1862. In 1866 he again married, this time choosing as companion Ellen Lindsey. To this union one daughter, Minnie Newhouse, now a resident of Fostoria,

was born. The mother, who died December 20, 1900, is remembered as a woman of gentle disposition and was mourned by a very large number of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Wiseman owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hancock county and the same number in Iowa, and has held the offices of assessor, constable and census enumerator. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a worthy member of the F. and A. M., and is a charter member of the blue lodge of Fostoria. He is at the present time past master of that organization. He is also a member of the chapter and commandery of Findlay. Among other organizations in which Mr. Wiseman delights to work, is the G. A. R., he beonging to the post at Fostoria. In his early pioneer life Mr. Wiseman was an experienced hunter, a fact evidenced by the trophies of the chase which decorate his walls. He boasts of a record of having killed in his life-time over three hundred deer.

JOSEPH WISEMAN.

Joseph Wiseman, a younger brother of the above, is a resident of Washington township, owning and operating one of the best farms in Hancock county, and which contains one hundred and ninety acres. He was born in Perry county, Ohio, November 1, 1825, and was six years of age when he first came to the county. His entire training and education was in Washington township, and upon attaining his majority he settled there, and has since been successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. His first purchase of land was made in 1848, the tract containing fifty acres. This he subsequently disposed of, and bought a farm near Fostoria, where he engaged in "trucking" for a few years. In 1874 he purchased his present farm, which he has improved extensively. The marriage of Mr. Joseph Wiseman occurred in Richland county, Ohio, in 1854. His wife's maiden name was Ann Leedy. Nine children were born by her as follows: John, Jennie, Oran, Nettie, William and Della. The names of those deceased are Sophronia, Charles and Elmer. The mother of this family was a native of Richland county, Ohio, where she was born in 1829. On the side of the Wisemans, the family is of English extraction, the maternal branch of the family being of German descent.

The name of Wiseman is one whose long association with the affairs of Hancock county has made it familiar with every citizen in the county, and no suspicion or taint of anything dishonorable has ever attached to it. The present generation are keeping up the excellent reputation handed down to them by the pioneer members of the family, and are looked upon as the most worthy representatives of the farming industry in Hancock county.

MRS. JOSEPH WISEMAN.

JOSEPH WISEMAN.

ALLISON H. NICHOLS.

The photograph gallery is an indispensable adjunct of every live town, and no village can be considered up-to-date which cannot boast a place of this kind. The "picture gallery" is a favorite place of resort for all classes, and the personage who performs the wonderful work of transferring the "human form divine" to cardboard is always an important and usually a very popular character in the community. Findlay is fortunate in this respect, as in the person of Mr. Nichols it possesses not only a genial gentleman and intelligent companion but an artist of acknowledged skill in the profession of photography. The family is of Vermont origin, and Walter Nichols, the grandfather of our subject, was born in that state in 1782, followed the occupation of farming during all the years of his active life, and enjoyed remarkable longevity, as his death did not occur until 1878. His son, Hiram B. Nichols, was born in Niagara county, New York, in 1824, and ten years later came with his father to Eaton county, Michigan, where he grew to manhood. In his early life he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, but in later years became a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and devoted all his energies to making proselytes in the cause of Christianity. He was a worthy man in every respect, highly esteemed both in religious and other circles, and when he passed away in 1878 was sincerely mourned by the numerous body of friends who had learned to esteem his many admirable qualities. He was married in 1847, and the only child by this union was Allison H. Nichols, whose birth occurred on a farm in Eaton county, Michigan, January 24, 1849. He had the misfortune of losing his mother when only nine years old, that estimable lady's death having occurred in 1858, and during his boyhood he worked on the farm in season while attending the district schools during the winter time. This routine continued until he reached the twenty-second year of his age, when he began to think of plans for the future. Following the bent of his inclinations, he entered a photographer's office at Charlotte, Michigan, and remained there until he had mastered the details of this interesting vocation. Feeling that he was duly equipped for the prosecution of this artistic profession on his own account Mr. Nichols chose the thriving city of Findlay as a desirable location and consequently took up his permanent abode there August 8, 1876. He has done well and has succeeded in building up a good business, while at the same time winning hosts of friends by his urbanity and accommodating disposition.

In September, 1876, Mr. Nichols led to the altar as his chosen bride Miss Clara C., daughter of Augustus Sheffield, of Findlay, and their union, which

has been in every way congenial, resulted in the birth of two children: Lyman S. and Carrie M. The standing of Mr. Nichols in his adopted community is evidenced by the fact of his election to the city council in 1886 and his satisfactory service for one term, besides his membership of the school board, in which position he rendered efficient service in the cause of education. Mr. Nichols is connected with the First Methodist Episcopal church, and gratifies his inclination for fraternal fellowship by membership in the Independent order of Odd Fellows.

CHARLES RUSSELL TAYLOR.

The subject of this sketch is another of those men, many of whom are mentioned in this volume, who became identified with the oil industry in youth, made their success in that line and remained more or less in connection therewith all their lives. Mr. Taylor has been what is called an "oil man" for nearly thirty years, and there are few things connected with the business which he does not understand from practical experience. Though a native of Ohio, he has only been a resident of Findlay about twelve years, but during that time has done his full share toward the moral and industrial growth of the city.

Charles Russell Taylor was born in Claridon, Ohio, January 17, 1854, and remained at the place of his nativity until he had reached the twenty-first year of his age. His thoughts for some time had been turned toward the great oil fields of Pennsylvania, where so many had made fortunes and which had become the breeding-ground for speculative ventures of all kinds. Without much capital, but a natural capacity for business, Mr. Taylor entered with enthusiasm into the work as soon as he arrived at Petrolia, Pennsylvania, and his career "in oil" thus commenced in 1876 lasted until 1891, during which time he greatly improved his financial fortunes. With this additional capital, secured and fortified with the large experience acquired in the oil regions, Mr. Taylor came to Findlay in the year last mentioned and resumed his occupation in the same line of business at that point.

In November, 1875, Mr. Taylor was married at his birthplace to Miss Mary E., daughter of Henry Smith, by which union he has an only son, Arthur E., a youth of unusually bright promise. His birth occurred at Petrolia, Pennsylvania, October 21, 1877, and after coming to Findlay he was graduated in the high school of that city. Shortly thereafter he entered Hiram College in Portage county, Ohio, where he proved a diligent student and received his Ph. B. degree in the class of 1901. He is now in his second

year at the University of Chicago, taking a post-graduate course in geology. The family of Mr. Taylor are communicants of the Church of Christ and he himself has been active in religious work as a member of the Young Men's Christian Association at Findlay, of which he was elcted president in 1901.

JACOB INGOLD.

The noble land of freedom and of scenery, Switzerland, has produced many enterprising and capable citizens of this country, and the agricultural interests are especially indebted to this class of foreigners. Andrew and Annie Ingold, the parents of our subject, came from that country to America in 1853 and settled in Hancock county, Big Lick township, where they remained for four years; they then resided in Findlay for one year and in the spring of 1860 took up their residence in Pleasant township, buying a farm of forty acres. Mr. Ingold was a miller by trade and followed this calling for several years. He was an industrious man and honest to a fault, living in the high esteem of all his neighbors. He belonged to the German Reformed church and later joined the Church of God. His death took place March 30, 1893, but his wife still survives, making her home in McComb. There were three children, Anna, Elizabeth and Jacob.

Jacob, the only son of the above parents, was born in Switzerland in the year 1852, and passed his boyhood and received his education in Pleasant township. His whole life has been devoted to farming. In 1880 he made his first purchase of land, buying out his sister's interest in the home farm, to which he has subsequently added by purchase eighty acres, making a nice farm of one hundred and twenty acres. On this land there were only a few acres of improved soil, and he went to work with that indomitable will of his and in a few years made his farm blossom like a rose. He is a modern and progressive agriculturist, believes in making use of all the late aids to farming in the way of improved machinery, and his farm is one of the models in the vicinity. It has large and commodious buildings and everything needed for the care and cultivation of crops.

In 1876 Mr. Ingold was united in marriage to Laura A., daughter of Samuel and Sarah Ramsey. Six children have been born of this union, of whom four survive: Melvin J.; Daniel C.; Myrtle E.; and Charles F. His first wife died on April 14, 1887, and March 17, 1889, he was married to Mrs. Mary Brooks. The four children born of this union are: Aaron E., Rachel A., Homer H. and Floyd B.

PROF. M. R. HAMMOND.

We are, in reality, separated by only a very short time from the days of the log school house, with its slab seats, with its rude and inefficient methods of instruction and the teachers who followed the profession only as a stepping stone to something better, but so extensive and far reaching have been the changes in the educational world in the last half century that we seem to have overleaped centuries of our former short strides, and the schools of our fathers seem a reminder of an age long past and antiquated. Who, then are responsible for these developments if not the progressive, energetic, large-souled and broad-minded teachers themselves? The glorious encomiums spoken of the "little red school house on the hill" have often neglected him who was the soul and moving spirit of that wonderful edifice, the patient, toiling and small paid teacher. It is the object of this brief sketch to outline the life history of one of the foremost educators in Hancock county, Ohio, Professor M. R. Hammond, the superintendent of public instruction of Vanlue.

Grandfather Thomas G. Hammond was one of the first settlers in Delaware township, Hancock county, having come there in 1835; he was the owner of about two sections of land which he had entered from the government. His son, who was known as Squire Hammond, was born in Delaware township in 1842 and there spent his life as a tiller of the soil. He married Miss Emeline Ballard, who was born in the same township in 1844, and they became the parents of the subject of this sketch.

M. R. Hammond was born in Delaware township, Hancock county, Ohio, January 11, 1864, in the little town of Mount Blanchard; there he was reared and received the advantages of the schools of his native town; he completed his education in Ada University, in which institution he is now a senior. On arriving at manhood he took up his life work, and for seventeen years has followed his profession, confining his work to the southern part of his native county. One of the highest compliments that can be paid to his ability is that he taught for four years in his own town, where he commanded the utmost respect of those with whom he had grown up. In 1897 he accepted his present position as the principal of the Vanlue high school, where he is giving entire satisfaction to the patrons of the town. Mr. Hammond has under his supervision and care nearly two hundred pupils, with a corps of four teachers; the beautiful building, arranged and equipped according to the most approved ideas of modern educational architecture, was erected in 1892 and is a model for a rural school.

In 1886 Mr. Hammond became the husband of Miss Nora E. Smith, the daughter of Jerome and Margaret Smith, of Mount Blanchard; two children have been born, Clarence S. and Carrie E. In religion the family have always been devout Methodists. Mr. Hammond was reared in the belief of Democratic principles, but so many of the independent thinking men of the present day, has departed from the ancestral way and is now an ardent Republican.

GEORGE W. OMAN.

George W. Oman, a retired farmer of Jackson township, who now resides at his pleasant home in Findlay, Ohio, still owns a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres which is located in the oil belt of Hancock county, and has five producing wells upon it.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Oman were John and Faithful (Elliott) Oman, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, but in their early married life removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1842, locating in Eagle township, Hancock county. Here Grandfather Oman purchased a farm of eighty acres of new land and with great industry cleared it for cultivation. That John Oman was a man of high character may be known from the fact that his neighbors were wont to call him Honest John, on account of his integrity and truthfulness. His family numbered five children, and three of these still survive, namely: Josiah, Ephraim and Hannah, the two older brothers residing in Hancock county.

Josiah Oman, the eldest of the family, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1831 and came to Hancock county with his father. He is now an esteemed resident of Amanda township, owning there one of the finest farms, consisting of one hundred and seventy acres. Mr. Oman has been prominent in township affairs, holding all of the offices with credit, and has been a sensible, practical and successful man. He married Susan Hartman, of Fairfield county, in 1847, who died in 1895. They had a family of seven children, four of whom are still living, namely: John, Grant, Millie, Mary, Andrew, Franklin and George W.

George W. Oman was born in Eagle township, Hancock county, in October, 1858, was reared on the farm and was educated in the district schools. His early interests centered in agricultural affairs and he has devoted his life to the same. In 1887 he made his first purchase of land, buying eighty acres in Amanda township, which he immediately set about improving. In 1890 he was able to dispose of this property at an advanced rate, and in

1891 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Jackson township, which he still owns. In 1898 he retired from active labor and now enjoys the comforts of his city home in Findlay, having purchased this property in 1897.

February 15, 1887, Mr. Oman was united in marriage with Miss Viola Van Sant, who was born in Hancock county in 1861, and who is a daughter of William H. and Harriet E. (Mains) Van Sant, both of these families being among the old settlers of the county. To our subject and wife were born two children, Howard and Homer.

ISAAC WALDO MARVIN.

The subject of this sketch, now a retired business man, is a native of Hancock county, and has spent all his life within its limits. Most of his labors have been expended in agricultural pursuits, varied by the management of a planing mill, but of late years Mr. Marvin has taken life more leisurely, his occupation consisting in looking after his property. The Marvin family originated in England, but by emigration became identified at an early period with Pennsylvania, where the descendants lived for several generations. Rev. Serah Marvin, son of the founder, spent his active life in the Keystone state and there reared a family. William Marvin, one of his children, was born in Pennsylvania in 1797, came to Hancock county in 1828 and died at Findlay in 1880. He was a distiller by occupation, and before the war kept the old Marvin Inn, three miles east of Findlay, which for years was a famous hostelry in northwestern Ohio. His son, Stephen Marvin, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and came to Ohio with his parents in boyhood. He was married in 1841 to Mary Kelley, who died in 1893. He became a millwright and followed that trade for many years, his death occurring at Findlay in 1893.

Isaac Waldo Marvin, son of the last mentioned, was born at Findlay, Ohio, November 17, 1855, and as he grew up was educated in the usual way in the county schools. At the age of twenty-one he took possession of a farm in Hancock county belonging to his father, and spent nine years in its cultivation and management. Returning to Findlay at the expiration of this time, he later joined his brother Cloyd in the ownership and management of a planing mill, which occupied his attention for the five following years. He then retired from active business and is now spending his time looking after farming at Findlay.

In 1881 Mr. Marvin married Lucy Bish, who died in 1886, leaving a daughter named Frances. In 1890 he took a second wife, in the person of

Miss Ada Anthony, by whom he has four children: Bernice, Stephen, Mary and Ada Gertrude. Mr. Marvin's religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church and in politics he is a Republican.

HARVEY G. CLARK.

The gentleman above mentioned is a native of Findlay, has spent all of his life in and around that city, and has done his share in developing its industries and aiding in its growth. Commencing hard work at a very early age, he rose step by step until he became a producer of oil and prospered reasonably in that business. Though of Pennsylvania origin, the family had representatives among the early pioneers of Ohio, and several generations have grown up on the soil of the Buckeye state. Daniel W. Clark, grandfather of our subject, was born in Hancock county, during the first decade of the nineteenth century, passed his life in its borders, and died there in 1866 when about fifty-eight years of age. His son, Harvey G. Clark, was born in Hancock county in 1838, became a soldier of the Civil war and sacrificed his life in the cause of his country. He was among the first volunteers in 1861, enlisting as a private in Company G, Ninety-Eighth Regiment of Ohio Infantry, and died in 1863, while in the service. He married Mary Todd, by whom he had two children, the eldest being John E., at present a resident of Columbus, Ohio, and the other, Harvey G. of Findlay, who is the subject of this sketch.

Harvey G. Clark, his father's namesake and youngest child, was born at Findlay, Ohio, in 1863, the same year that his father's death occurred, while serving in the Union army. Harvey had but few educational advantages, such as he obtained being before he reached the age of fourteen, when he was compelled to quit school for work on the farm. He was thus employed for two years, then drove a team in the country for three years, and in 1886 made his entry into the oil business. His first job in that line was as a pumper, which was followed by tool-dressing, and eventually Mr. Clark began contracting on his own account. From that time on he has continued steadily in this employment, and is so engaged at the present time. He has done much work for various firms and individuals, besides drilling several gas well for the city of Findlay. He has exhibited skill in his calling, has managed his business affairs with good judgment and now belongs to the class which in the common parlance is styled "well fixed." He is regarded in the community as a man who does his work well and discharges his duty towards those who entrust him with responsibility.

In 1887 Mr. Clark united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth, daughter of William Baldwin, and this union has resulted in the birth of five children: Frederick, Edith, Ethel, Edward and Charles. Mr. Clark is not connected with any religious organization, but is a member of the order of Maccabees. During his adult life he has been connected with the Republican party, but confines himself to voting, as he is not a seeker for office.

GEORGE W. DE VORE.

The subject of this sketch, whose name is above presented, now a prosperous farmer of Blanchard township, can look back over a long life, whose early beginnings gave little promise of future success. In fact his lot was that one which of all that befall human beings is perhaps the most to be dreaded—the being left and orphan of tender years to be thrust out upon the cold charities of the world, among strangers, with the consequent neglect and ill treatment which is almost sure to follow. Yet from such a fate Mr. De Vore struggled manfully up to a position of standing in his community, possessed of a comfortable competence and, what is still better, the good will and esteem of all his neighbors. It is pleasant to talk or write about such men and no doubt a brief summary of his career will be pursued with interest.

In the early half of the nineteenth century there lived in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, a French family by the name of De Vore, who had arrived with the first settlers of that section. Among their children, born after the location in Tuscarawas, was a son called William, who after reaching maturity was married to Fannie Alford, a native of the adjoining county of Carroll. This couple lived but a few years after their marraige, and at their death left four helpless children, the youngest of which was only six months old. Of these three are now living and one of them is the subject of this sketch. One brother, supposed to be still living, has not been seen or heard from since the separation in childhood. George W. De Vore was born in Carroll county, July 4, 1840, and at the time his parents died was but seven years of age. He met the usual fate of orphans by being cast among strangers to be reared and his education was so badly neglected that he was compelled later in life to educate himself by reading with the assistance of his wife. After a life of bitter struggle and privations he at length found himself at the age of nineteen confronted with the problem of obtaining a means of livelihood. In 1859 he arrived in Hancock county, not only without money, but with a debt of eight dollars hanging over him, which to this inexperienced wanderer at that time seemed as heavy as a mountain. But young DeVore was

made of the stuff that is proof against hardship and which eventually never fails to rescue its possessor from the most trying environments. He set to work and though his tasks were arduous and but ill requitted he found steady labor, the true panacea for most of the ills of life. His wife's parents gave them forty acres of land in the wilds of Putnam county, which had cost them three hundred dollars. Mr. De Vore built on this, cleared and improved it and in time sold it for one thousand dollars. At a later period he bought one hundred and ninety acres of good land in Hancock county, and this estate, which is situated in Blanchard township, constitutes his present place of residence. In March, 1865, Mr. De Vore enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged at the close of the war. He has held several township offices and taken a modest part in public affairs of a local nature. His religious affiliations are with the United Brethren church and his fraternal connections with the Odd Fellows, Daughters of Rebecca and Lindsay Post No. 75, Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. De Vore was happy in his selection of a wife, his choice being Mary Jane Braze, to whom he was united July 1, 1860. This lady not only performed all her marital duties with unwearying affection but was helpful in enabling her husband to obtain a good English education. She was born June 20, 1840, of French parents, and passed away March 1, 1901, without making an enemy during her long and blameless life. This union proved as fruitful as it was happy, the household being brightened by the following list of children: John W., born in 1861; James Isaac, born in 1864; George C., born in 1868; David A., 1871; Henry Raven, 1873; Lillie M., 1876; Samuel H., 1879; Mary E., 1881; and Jennie A., 1883. It remains only to be added that George W. De Vore is a man of integrity, honest in all his dealings and a selfmade man in the best sense of those words.

JEFFERSON ROLLER.

This gentleman is one of the prosperous farmers of Big Lick township, where, in partnership with his brother Thomas, he owns and culivates two hundred and forty acres of valuable land. The founder of this family in Ohio was William Roller, who purchased about nine hundred acres of land in the early part of the nineteenth century. At his death this land, all of which he had retained and much more, was distributed equally among his children. William Roller rose to a position of prominence and influence in his county, and for a number of years held the important office of

associate judge. One of his children was Wilson Roller, who came to Hancock county in 1834, was married to Mary Thomas in 1839, and located where their son Jefferson now resides. He became influential in local affairs, held several township offices and was regarded as a model citizen. He was born in 1817, and died in 1871, while his wife's death occurred in 1894, at the age of seventy-three years. Of their family of eight children five are living, namely: Nancy, Jane, Jefferson, Thomas and W. C.

Jefferson Roller was born December 6, 1848, on the farm which he now owns in Hancock county, Ohio. He was reared and educated in his native township and has never followed any other business excepting that of agriculture. In this, however, he has achieved marked success, being regarded as one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers in this section of county. The esteem felt for him by his fellow citizens is indicated by the fact that they have repeatedly elected him to local offices. For seven years he held the office of township trustee and at the present time is township treasurer.

In 1872 Mr. Roller was united in marriage to Miss Letitia Roberts and this union, which has been a happy one in all respects, resulted in the birth of two children,—Lyman L. and Clyd W. Mrs. Roller died March 29, 1874, and in 1890 Mr. Roller took a second wife in the person of Miss Nellie Ault. By this marriage there have been six children: Alma, James, Dewey, Mary, Ruth and Florence. Mr. Roller is a member of the Order of Ben Hur, and takes an active interest both in the social and business affairs of the community in which he resides.

M. C. YOUNG.

Though a resident of Hancock county only fourteen years the above named gentleman is well established as one of the enterprising farmers of Big Lick township. The family from which he comes is of German origin, and its representatives have been people of such quiet worth as to deserve more than passing notice. George Young, a successful farmer of Stark county, Ohio, died at the age of eighty-eight years, leaving a son named Daniel. The latter, a native of Stark county, was also a farmer by occupation, and died in the place of his nativity when sixty-four years old. He married Mary Darr, who still survives, and whose children gave her a surprise party September 3, 1902, in honor of her eighty-third birthday. M. C. Young, one of the children of this venerable lady, was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 18, 1854, and lived there until the thirty-fourth year of

his age. His training was that of a farmer's boy and his education such as is obtainable in the district schools. In 1888 he came to Hancock county, and after renting land for several years purchased the farm of fifty-eight acres in Big Lick township where he has resided since 1895. This place has been much improved by Mr. Young, and everything about the farm gives evidence of thrift and prosperity. He soon gained the esteem of his neighbors by his honorable dealings and has been honored by election to several of the important local offices. As a farmer he is progressive in his methods, up-to-date in improvements of all kinds and well informed concerning the details of his business. The Youngs have always been noted for their peace-loving disposition, and its is said there has not been a law suit in the family for three generations. The brother of Mr. Young's mother gave his life to his country in the hour of need, and on both sides of the house the representatives of this worthy family have always proved patriotic citizens.

In 1876 Mr. Young married Miss Amanda E. Stands, born in Stark county, Ohio, May 9, 1856, concerning whose family relations a word or two will prove of interest. Her grandfather, Leonard Stands, was of German descent and followed the occupation of a cooper in the state of Pennsylvania. His son, Henry Stands, who was born in Pennsylvania, learned the trade of a weaver, but became a farmer in the latter part of his life. He married Lydia Holm, of Stark county, who died at the age of seventy-five, while her husabnd's death occurred January 24, 1886, when he was seventy-four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Young have four children living: Sylvia O., Esta E., Nelson R. and Eva M. Emery A. and Mary A., died when quite small. There is no more pleasant household in Big Lick township than that of Mr. Young, nor any citizen of that community who enjoys or deserves more general esteem.

J. H. BENNER.

In 1845, shortly after his marriage to Caroline Fenstermaker, Israel Benner came into Hancock county for the purpose of seeking a permanent home. Though possessed of little of this world's goods he was master of a useful trade, was of an industrious disposition and as work was then plentiful in his line he soon began to make material headway. Israel's handicraft was that of a carpenter, and as there was considerable building in progress at that time in Hancock county he was never at a loss for steady employment. Land was also cheap at that period of the county's history, and Israel Benner had little difficulty in securing possession of eighty acres in

Union township, on which he built the regulation log cabin and set up housekeeping after the matter of fact style peculiar to pioneers. As his sons grew up they assisted in the work, so that in course of time the original eighty had been increased to one hundred and twenty acres of land, and the Benners were in independent circumstances. The farm, of course, was greatly improved by cultivation, fencing and building, and eventually became quite a cosy as well as valuable home. By the fact that he held several offices in the township, including that of trustee, it is evident that Israel Benner stood well with his neighbors and was a man of consequence in the community. In early life he had been admitted into the Evangelical church, but later joined the United Brethren, and his daily life was in keeping with the tenets of Christianinty, which teach honesty of purpose and integrity of conduct. Israel Benner's wife died September 10, 1873, but it was not until twenty years later that he himself was claimed by the "grim reaper," to whom all, sooner or later, must yield. This worthy couple had nine children, of whom eight are still living, and seven of these are residents of Hancock county.

J. H. Benner, one of the eldest sons, was born on his father's farm in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1850, and as he grew up learned to handle the tools used in the carpenter's trade. He proved an apt pupil, and after completing his apprenticeship engaged regularly in all kinds of work embraced in the ocupation of a journeyman carpenter. He prospered, as did his father before him, and eventually was able to make some real estate invesments on his own account. His first purchase was in 1872, when he became owner of eighty acres of land in Union township, which he improved considerably during the next twelve years and in 1884 disposed of by sale. Being "footloose" for the time Mr. Benner concluded to travel and see something of the great western country of which he had heard so much. Certain influences drew him to the state of Kansas and, being pleased with the outlook, he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land with a view of making his permanent home in that section. This was in 1885, and during the following twelve years Mr. Benner industriously cultivated his farm in Kansas, where agricultural conditions differed considerably from those with which he had been familiar in Ohio. He became popular while residing among the Kansans and was honored by his neighbors with elections as justice of the peace and clerk of the school board. After giving Kansas a fair trial, however, Mr. Benner concluded that he liked Ohio better, and so in 1897 we find him again eastward bound on his way to the place of his nativity. After returning to his old home he purchased the one hundred and sixty acres of

land in Union township which constitutes his present homestead and which he devotes to general farming and stock raising. He ranks well both as a farmer and business man, while all admit that in his line there is no better mechanic in the county than J. H. Benner.

In 1870 he married Mary P., daughter of John C. and Elizabeth Smith, and the result of this union was an only son, whose birth occurred in 1871. This son, whose name is William S. Benner, grew to be an industrious and worthy man and is associated with his father in cultivating the home farm. In 1890 he married Miss Mary Jackall, by whom he has had six children, and of these there are five living. The family are members of the Methodist Protestant church, in which the father holds the position of trustee.

W. C. WEBSTER.

The above named, who is one of the busy men of Hancock county, is owner and proprietor of a saw mill situated on the Sandusky road about three miles east of the city of Findlay, in Marion township. This mill was built by Mathew Giles Gillespie. It was burned in 1896, but was rebuilt in the same year. Mr. Webster manufactures common native lumber. His mill is of the modern variety, and has a capacity of 10,000 feet per day. The engine which he uses for power is a machine of forty-five horse-power strength. Mr. Webster is a native of Franklin county, Ohio, where he was born June 30, 1854. He passed the period of adolesence in his home county, receiving a good education in the common schools, where he was an apt and a progressive pupil, which fact accounts in part, at least, for his superior business qualities. He has kept himself in touch with the public affairs of his time and has held some of the township offices, having been clerk for a number of years between 1875 and 1900. The married life of Mr. Webster dates from October, 1886, at which time he was joined in wedlock to Miss Clara L., the daughter of H. C. and A. E. Cook, of Franklin county, Ohio. The union, which has been one of great felicity, has been blessed with five children, four of whom are now living: Abbie C., Edward C., Lucy M., and Cloyce C., the latter deceased. The mother of this family, Mrs. Clara L. Webster, was born in Franklin county, in 1854. The subject of this sketch is the son of Edward and Cornelia (Taylor) Webster. His father was a farmer, but died in early life, when his wife married Mathew Gillespie, a mechanic of ability. He followed milling extensively, at which he was an adept. Mr. and Mrs. Webster are looked upon as among the best citizens of Hancock county and are the center of a large circle of friends.

FRANCIS M. LEWIS.

The gentleman above mentioned is a representative of that class, not infrequently met with in the Ohio Valley, who literally cut his way to prosperity with an ax. In other words he is one who started in the world without other capital than his health and strength, but by dint of many hard blows and unswerving perseverance eventually established for himself a comfortable home and accumulated a handsome property. It is self-made men of this kind, unpretentious and unassuming, who constitute the real strength of every community. They are the yeomanry who have done the hard work which converted the western wilderness into a terrestrial paradise, and on them the state and nation always rely in their hour of trial. The Lewis family has been long resident in Hancock county and its members have ever been esteemed as among the most worthy citizens. George W. and Elizabeth (Roe) Lewis left their native state of Pennsylvania and made their way in 1854 to Hancock county, of which they become permanent residents. George was an industrious man, saving of his means and steady of habit, and in the course of time established a comfortable home for himself and family. He enjoyed the good will of his neighbors and was one of the loyal citizens of Hancock county until his death, which occurred October 17, 1896, his wife still surviving at a venerable age and enjoying increased esteem in the social circle to which she belongs. Of their sixteen children there are seven still living and four of these are residents of Hancock county. Among the latter is Francis M. Lewis, the subject of this sketch, who was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, November 5, 1849. He had few school advantages in youth, owing to the necessity of working to assist his parents, and later to make his own living. For a number of years he "worked out," as the phrase goes, by the day or month, but being sober, prudent and economical he managed to save his wages until they amounted to a sum large enough to enable him to make an investment on his own account. In 1878, therefore, he purchased his present farm of ninety acres in Big Lick township, which he proceeded to cultivate with energy, and by good management has converted it into a fine property. He devotes his place to what is called general farming, that is, he raises the standard crops and sufficient stock to supply his own wants besides a small surplus for the market. September 27, 1874, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Mary M., daughter of James and Rachel Cole, and his home life with this good woman was always pleasant and happy. From time to time their household was brightened by the advent of offspring until ten children surrounded the hearthstone. These, with the names and

G. M. Lewis

dates of birth, are thus recorded in the family register: Raymond W., August 23, 1875; Lida R., December 6, 1876; Lulie D., November 13, 1878, now deceased; Phebe J., August 2, 1880; James R., January 2, 1882; Marion E., November 8, 1884; Frosa O., November 22, 1886; John B., December 17, 1887; Lemuel J., May 29, 1889; Ralph M., September 20, 1892. The mother of this interesting family was born in Delaware, May 20, 1851, and after a useful life as wife and mother passed peacefully to her final rest on June 18, 1894. Mr. Lewis has served his township in the offices of trustee, supervisor and school director and discharged his duties with such conscientious integrity as to gain the general esteem of his constituents. He is a consistent member of the United Brethren church and is a sample of that practical Christianity which carries the best precepts of religion into the affairs of every day life. In other words he treats others as he would have them treat him, and this, after all, is the real substance of "the law and the prophets." As a man and citizen true to himself and others in all the relations of life, no one in Hancock county stands better than Francis M. Lewis.

JOHN BRENNER.

The agricultural element of Hancock county cannot be surpassed for their high character as loyal citizens, and one of the worthiest of their number is John Brenner, who resides in Cass township, where he owns and cultivates a farm of two hundred and eighty-seven acres. His birth occurred in Washington township, October 12, 1846. His father, who wrote his name both as Mathews and Matthias Brenner, and his mother, Caroline Mauser, were natives of Germany, who emigrated to this country in 1838. Mathews or Matthias Brenner was born February 7, 1811, and his wife four years later. In early life in his own country he learned the blacksmith trade, at which he worked with much success in the country of his adoption. He lived in various places, but finally settled in Stark county, Ohio, where he remained up to 1843, in which year he settled in Washington township, purchasing thirty acres of land, twenty acres of which he cleared. As he prospered he added to the original purchase, and at his death was in possession of a farm of eighty acres, which he had brought to a very high state of cultivation and on which he had many handsome improvements. Mathews Brenner was a skilled mechanic, and a man of sound principles and a devout member of the Lutheran church, to which he gave a most liberal support. He was possessed of more than average intelligence and, though pursuing an exacting occupation in early life, had become master of several

languages. His father was a justice of the peace in Germany, and being associated with him in business he succeeded in solving some perplexing questions in later life. He was a self made man in the true sense of that term. His wife died August 23, 1890, and after six years he passed away April 22, 1897. They had four children: Rosanna, deceased, Mary, John and Caroline, deceased.

John Brenner, the only member of the family living in Hancock county, received his early training in the district school of Cass township and passed his boyhood without incident of importance. He fitted himself for teaching in the Findlay high school, and was one of the successful teachers of the county for thirteen years. His early training, however, and his natural tastes made the monotony of the school room irksome, and he abandoned that calling for the farm. In 1874 he bought sixty-four acres, in 1879 added forty more, and on this farm he has placed many improvements. In 1887 he built a fine barn for his stock and produce and in 1893 erected a commodious and comfortably situated house, which improvements add much to the general appearance of the farm. Politically Mr. Brenner favors the Democracy and was twice elected clerk of the township by his party, besides receiving the appointment of a census enumerator of his district in 1880. In 1897 he received the nomination on the Democratic ticket as candidate for county commissioner, but although making a gallant race he was unsuccessful. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has always been a very active worker, having been for a number of years a class leader and trustee. In 1872 Mr. Brenner was married to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Gottleib and Mary Meyers, who was born in Washington township, April 27, 1848. She is a woman of estimable character, and has been an excellent mother to her five children: William H., Sara Ella, Ida Mae, John W., deceased, and Treva Nettie.

Mr. and Mrs. Brenner are popular and respected residents of their community, and their standing is such in the county as to merit their mention in a volume devoted to the representative citizens of Hancock.

LEVI STAHL.

The above named representative farmer of Hancock county resides in Marion township on a well tilled farm of eighty acres, upon which is situated a valuable gas well. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, January 8, 1855, was reared and educated in his native locality and had the usual experiences of the average farmer's boy. At the age of twenty

he left home and began life for himself in Wood county, Ohio, where he continued his agricultural labors for two years, and in 1877 came for the first time to Hancock county. After remaining three years he returned to Wood county, but in 1891 became a permanent resident of Hancock county. In the year mentioned he purchased the farm on which he now resides and since then has been engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mr. Stahl takes an active interest in the educational affairs of his community, and was at one time a member of the school board of the second district. May 27, 1877, he married Ella A., a daughter of A. T. and Margaret Mason and six children have come to give joy to their home:—George B.; Alta E.; Orville A.; Zella G.; K. L.; and Charles B. Mrs. Stahl was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 17th of October, 1854, and is a working member of the Lutheran denomination. Her father was a man of influence in the community, and established a reputation as a skilled mechanic. Indeed, he was one of those natural geniuses to whom are due many of the inventions of the day. The parents of Mr. Stahl were William and Manah Stahl, natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, from which section they removed a number of years subsequent to the departure of their son Levi. They now reside in Cass township, this county. They reared a family of nine children.

JOSEPH STOFFEL.

This representative of the farming interests of Hancock county is a resident of Washington township, where he owns and operates a farm of eighty acres, which he devotes to general farming. His birth occurred at Tiffin, Ohio, June 21, 1856. His parents, Peter and Margaret Stoffel, were natives of Germany, who emigrated to this country in 1852. They located in Tiffin, Ohio, where he engaged successfully in various occupations, but subsequently became an employe of a railroad company and removed his residence to Findlay, about 1861. Here he remained until his death in 1885, his good wife's death having occurred in 1879. Of their three children, the eldest was born in Germany and the subject of this sketch is the only surviving member of the family. He was reared and educated in the city of Findlay, in whose schools he received his elementary education. The period of youth was spent in teaming and general work for his father. Upon coming to maturity in 1887 he purchased from Jacob Wiseman his present farm, and has since been very successful in its cultivation. He chose for a life companion Mary C., daughter of Isaac and Julia Wolf, to whom he was mar-

ried in October, 1889. She was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1856, and her parents on both sides were of Dutch descent. They were a patriotic people, of good and upright principles, whose children fill their various roles in life with credit. One of Mrs. Stoffel's brothers is a prominent physician of Washington county, Pennsylvania. The Wolfs on the maternal side are a family of great longevity, Mrs. Stoffel's grandmother having lived to be ninety-two years of age. She had reared eleven children, and for over sixty years no death had occurred in the family. Mrs. Stoffel is an educated lady, who has inherited the pride and principles of her ancestors, and Mr. Stoffel is a gentleman who receives and merits the good wishes of a large circle of friends in his community. Their marriage resulted in the birth of three children, George, Susan and an infant unnamed.

CONRAD SHERMAN.

The farming element of Hancock county has a worthy representative in the gentleman whose name is above presented. He lives in Washington township, where he cultivates a farm of eighty acres and belongs to an old and highly respected family, whose descendants have acquitted themselves well in their respective spheres. Conrad is a son of Adam and Margaret (Powell) Sherman. The former was born in Baltimore county, Maryland, in 1803. The mother is a native of Eagle township, Hancock county, and belongs to the prominent family of Powells who came to this county at an early date, and whose history is elsewhere given in this book. Adam Sherman removed to this county in 1833, where he entered one hundred and twenty acres of virgin forest in Washington township. Here he passed the remainder of his days and established a reputation of being an honest, industrious man, who believed always in carrying out the injunction of the Golden Rule. He and his family were consistent members and earnest supporters of the Lutheran church. The father died at a comparatively early age, in 1854, leaving two children, Laura J. and Conrad. The paternal grandparents of our subject were Conrad and Catherine Sherman, alo natives of Baltimore county, Maryland. The great-grandparents, also named Conrad and Catherine, were natives of the same county in Maryland. The Shermans are of Swiss extraction on the paternal side. The maternal great-great-grandfather was Leonard Sabel, and his son, of the same name, married Catherine Witter.

Conrad Sherman, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born in Washington township, Hancock county, Ohio, September 25, 1853, passed

his boyhood and youth in the pleasures and occupations of the farm, and received in the common schools an excellent education, which was tempered by the refining influences of a good home. Upon arriving at maturity he followed in the footsteps of his progenitors and adopted agricultural pursuits. He owns eighty acres of land purchased in 1890, which he devotes to general farming, and on which he uses the most modern methods and machinery. The most interesting event in his life occurred April 8, 1880, when he set up a domestic establishment of his own and called Miss Ella Pepple to preside over the same. Mrs. Sherman is the daughter of John and Mary Pepple, and a native of Cass township, born November 2, 1859. Her grandparents who were from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, settled in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1820, and later came to Hancock county. Further information about this worthy couple will be found under the sketch of Eli W. Pepple, on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman have four children, of whom Donald Conroy, born January 10, 1901, is the only one living, the deceased being Beatrice, Dwight L. and Dewey D.

As members of families which have been intimately and honorably associated with the advancement and development of Hancock county, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman are entitled to and with pleasure accorded to place in this volume of biography.

TOBIA G. BARNHILL, M. D.

During his professional career at Findlay Dr. Barnhill has met with gratifying success and won the good will and patronage of many of the leading citizens and families of the place. He is a great student and nedeavors to keep abreast of the times in everything relating to discoveries in medical science. Though progressive in his ideas and favoring modern methods he does not dispense with the true and tried systems which have stood the test of years.

Dr. Barnhill was born in Wayne county, Ohio, May 5, 1851, but when two years of age was brought by his parents to Hancock county, where he has ever since made his home. His elementary education was received in the public schools of Findlay, and after completing his term therein he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed in Hancock county from 1869 until 1871. Desiring to enter upon the practice of medicine, he abandoned the work of the schoolroom in order that he might give his entire attention to the study of the healing art, and in 1873 he graduated at the Cleveland Homeopathic Hospital College. March 4, 1873, he embarked in the

practice of medicine at Findlay, where his skill and ability soon became recognized and he now enjoys a large and lucrative practice. In 1895 he established the Barnhill Sanitarium, which is now as thoroughly equipped as any institution of its kind in the world. For the past eighteen years Dr. Barnhill has thoroughly studied the various uses of electricity, and the electrical appliances in his large sanitarium are now complete in all respects. The institution also contains two large parlors, where patients can visit their friends, is steam heated and electric lighted, and has all the modern conveniences for the comfort of the patients. Devotional exercises are held in the sanitarium parlors every morning at eight o'clock, to which friends of the institution are invited.

Dr. Barnhill is a member of the Ohio State Homeopathic Medical Society, the Northwestern Homeopathical Medical Association and the American Institute of Homeopathy. He has twice served as president of the state society and has also held the position of censor therein. For three terms he has served as coroner of Hancock county, and for eleven years he held the position of county physician. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity and the Tribe of Ben Hur. The Doctor's long professional career has been attended with marked success. His promptness, his sympathetic nature and his generosity are well known factors in his make-up, and those who have known him longest esteem him most highly.

CYRUS L. CASTERLINE.

As a member of the Bradford Oil Company of Findlay, Cyrus L. Casterline has been connected with the development of what has become one of the leading industries and a great source of wealth to this part of the state. His position in business circles is a creditable one. A native of the Empire state, he was born in Angelica, in 1851, and was there reared and educated, attending the public schools and acquiring thereby knowledge that well fitted him for the responsible duties of his subsequent career. At the age of twenty-five he left his native town and in 1876 went to the oil fields in the vicinity of Bradford, Pennsylvania, where he remained until he came to Findlay, since which time he has made his home in this place. He is interested in the development of the oil belt here and is an active working member of the Bradford Oil Company, which owns some good producing and valuable wells.

In 1900 Mr. Casterline was appointed by Charles E. Watson, mayor of Findlay, a member of the city board of improvements and is now serving

in that capacity. He takes deep interest in the progress and welfare of the city and is using his official position to further every measure which he believes will contribute to the general good. In his political views he is a Republican, always voting for the candidate of the party and never faltering in his allegiance to the party principles. Fraternally he is associated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and with the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He is a progressive, wide awake, enterprising business man, a valued addition to the community, and in Findlay he has gained many friends who recognize his business and social worth.

HENRY F. WINDERS.

In the business circles of Findlay Henry F. Winders has become an important factor. Reliability in all trade transactions, loyalty to all the duties of citizenship, fidelity in the discharge of every trust reposed in him have been his chief characteristics, and through the passing years they have gained for him the unqualified confidence and respect of his fellow townsmen. He is also public-spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of Findlay, and for many years he has been numbered among its honored citizens.

The birth of Mr. Winders occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 2d of May, 1831, and he is a son of John and Elizabeth (Paden) Winders. The former was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, where he was a member of an old and prominent family. The mother was a daughter of John and Sidney Paden, who were natives of Ireland, but came to this country in 1815 and settled in Fairfield county, Ohio. When but a lad Henry F. Winders was apprenticed to his uncle, T. B. C. Paden, who conducted a mercantile store in New Salem, Ohio, and when twenty-one years of age he embarked in the dry goods business on his own account in that city, which occupation he continued until 1859 and then took up agricultural pursuits. In 1861 he came to Findlay and for the succeeding four years sold goods for Patterson & Taylor, after which he again embarked in business for himself. His efforts in the mercantile world have been crowned with success, and he is now recognized as one of the leading business men of Findlay.

June 22, 1854, in Fairfield county, Ohio, occurred the marriage of Mr. Winders and Miss Araminta S., daughter of Judge Wiseman, of Perry county, Ohio, and unto this union have been born two children, a daughter and a son, the former, Susie, being the wife of Thomas Frazer, a druggist of Findlay. The son, John, who is associated with his father in business, married

Miss Ella Crooks, of Massillon, this state, and they have one son, Henry. Mr. Winders has held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church since his fifteenth year, has long served as one of its officials, and for over twenty-three years has been Sunday-school superintendent. For a period of over thirty years he has also been a member of the old and honored order of Masons. Though he has always avoided public office, he has served with credit in the city council and as a member of the school board of Findlay. In addition to his extensive mercantile connections he has also been identified with many of the industries of this city and has contributed toward the development of many of its important manufacturing and other interests. His political sympathies are with the Republican party.

PARLEE MITCHELL.

Hancock county oil fields have attracted a great many men from other occupations and other parts of the state. This has been the means of building up Findlay as much as the farms for which the surrounding country is also famous.

Mr. Mitchell is of Ohio pioneer stock, his grandfather George Mitchell having been born in Belmont county in 1801; he was a farmer all his life, and died at the ripe age of ninety-one years. His father is Jacob Mitchell, a farmer of Hancock county, who was born in 1839. In 1862, Jacob Mitchell enlisted in Company F, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private, and served three years. He is now one of the county infirmary directors. Parlee Mitchell was born on a farm in Portage township, this county, February 10, 1872, in which township he lived and received his education until he was twenty-four years of age, when he moved to Findley, and went immediately into the oil fields. He began where so many who have succeeded have begun, as a pumper, and rose through all the grades of the industry, until he became a producer on his own account. He purchased the old livery stable on the corner of Main and Larkins streets, together with its contents, then the largest livery on this side of the bridge. Mr. Mitchell put new stock into his stable, so that now it is first-class in every respect. Mr. Mitchell was married in 1899 to Jennie, daughter of R. W. Boyd.

The Democratic party claims his allegiance, and he has served his city as a representative of that party, holding the office of city councilman. That he is popular is evidenced by the fact that he was elected from the first ward by a majority of eighty-three, which ward is a Republican stronghold, having had as high as one hundred and twenty-three majority. Mr. Mitchell was first elected in 1901, and is still serving.

HENRY WILTS BROWN.

The family of this name, so long conspicuous at Findlay, originated in New York, but has been identified with Ohio for over half a century. Oliver Brown, one of the ancestors, took part in the Revolutionary war as a soldier in one of the New York regiments, and it was his son and namesake who became the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He lived and ended his days in New York, and reared a family which included a son named Henry. The latter was born in Albion, New York, in 1825, and came to Findlay, Ohio, in 1848. Two years after arriving he was admitted to the bar at Findlay, and practiced law there until his death in 1893. He was an able criminal lawyer and rose to prominence in the profession, besides becoming a leader in politics. He was elected to the offices of auditor and prosecuting attorney of Hancock county, and at one time represented it as a member of the state legislature. His son, Henry Wilts Brown, was born at Findlay, Ohio, February 14, 1863, and remained at home attending school until the age of seventeen. In 1880 he went to the west and spent several years traveling through Colorado, New Mexico and other sections, during which time he acquired a knowledge of the "art preservative," more vulgarly known as the printer's trade. While on his western tour Mr. Brown got hold of a paper at Meade, Kansas, which he conducted from 1884 until 1889, and then concluded to abandon the west for more inviting fields. In 1890 he returned to Findlay and started the Union, a weekly Democratic paper, whose publication and management have since occupied his time and attention. He is both editor and proprietor of the paper and makes it a strong and conservative exponent of Democratic principles, also paying considerable attention to the industrial interests and whatever adds to the life and development of the community.

RALPH D. COLE.

This gentleman, at present a practicing attorney at Findlay, is one of the most prominent men of his age in the county. Though less than thirty, he has held the position of clerk of the courts and represented Hancock county in the legislature, the latter honor being achieved in the twenty-sixth year of his age. The family originated in Delaware, but sent representatives among the first pioneers of Ohio and thus became identified with the state at a very early period. Harry Cole, grandfather of Ralph D., came from Delaware early in the nineteenth century and settled in Ashland

county. There, in 1821, his son, John W. Cole, was born and there he grew up and cultivated a farm until about 1860, when he came to Hancock county.

Ralph D. Cole, son of the last mentioned, was born on his father's farm in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, November 30, 1873. He was reared on the farm, attended the country schools and later entered Findlay College, where he was graduated in the class of 1896. After leaving college he taught in the Hancock county schools for two years, meantime studying law in his leisure moments, and in September, 1897, he received the appointment as clerk of the courts of Hancock county. He held this position until July, 1899, and in September following was nominated on the Republican ticket as a candidate for representative in the legislature from Hancock county. At the ensuing election in November he was successful at the polls, and served out his term satisfactorily. In December, 1900, Mr. Cole was admitted to the bar, and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession at Findlay.

ELI W. PEPPLE.

The above named representative agriculturist resides in Cass township on a well cultivated farm which lies in the oil belt of Hancock county, and therefore adds that element of material worth to its general value. He is the son of John and Mary (Groner) Pepple, natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Hancock county in 1847, after previously residing for some time in Columbiana county. The father of Mrs. Pepple had entered two hundred acres of unimproved land, and of this he gave his daughter sixty-six and two-thirds acres. Afterward John Pepple bought the same amount of land adjoining that of his wife on the east, which was also a part of her father's entry. Improvements were made on these farms, and in 1865 John Pepple bought forty acres additional, on which there were also some improvements. These forty acres lie along the public highway, north of Mrs. Pepple's land, and to this place the family moved in the spring of 1865, where Mr. and Mrs. Pepple continued to reside until their deaths. John Pepple was a practical and industrious farmer. He had considerable influence in the township among his fellow citizens, who by a popular vote elected him to the office of township trustee. He also served fourteen terms as township treasurer and a number of years as school director. He was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as a class leader and steward. He stood well in the church, in society and in the political field, always true to his faith and to his convictions. He had eight children, seven

of whom grew to maturity, and six of the number still survive. He was born March 18, 1819, and died March 1, 1897. His wife was born May 17, 1825, and died May 7, 1891.

Eli W. Pepple was born in Morrow, formerly Delaware county, Ohio, April 26, 1847. He was an infant when brought to this county by his parents. He passed the days of his boyhood and youth in the pleasures and pastimes peculiar to his day, doing his share of the farm labor, and there laying the foundation of that excellent health which has attended him through life. Besides the ordinary branches taught in the district school, he further added to his literary education by a course in the Findlay high school, where he fitted himself for teaching. Mr. Pepple followed this profession with much success for fifteen years, teaching in the winter and helping to conduct the farm in the summer. In 1872 he concluded that "the best part of valor is discretion," so to speak, and he surrendered to the graces of Miss Sarah A. Draper, the marriage occurring December 17, 1872. Mrs. Pepple was a daughter of W. L. and Louisa (Supply) Draper, and she died January 28, 1888, after becoming the mother of three children: Mary L.; Carl, deceased; and Dodie W. December 25, 1889, Mr. Pepple was married to Miss Sarah J., daughter of Robert and Eliza A. McKee. Mrs. Pepple's family are natives of the Keystone state, she having been born in Allegheny county in October, 1842. She is an accomplished lady who in former years was a successful and popular school teacher in Hancock county, and has a half interest in a nice farm property of eighty acres in her own right in the northeastern part of Cass township. Mr. Pepple moved to his present farm in 1879, where he has since resided. He is as popular with the people as was his father before him, and is fully as stanch in upholding Republican principles. He has held the office of township clerk for a continuous period of twenty years, and was re-elected in 1902 for two years more, besides holding the office of supervisor and school director. He and his good wife are honored members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are leaders of thought and movement in their part of Hancock county.

SORELY LARKINS.

Sorely Larkins, a resident farmer of Allen township, owning and operating a farm of eighty acres of valuable land, was born in Findlay in 1861. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Meyers) Larkins, the former a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and the latter of Switzerland. John Larkins came to this county in 1843, located in Findlay and pursued his trade

as a stone cutter in partnership with his brother Samuel, under the firm name of Larkins Brothers. John was a veteran of the Civil war and proved himself equal to the emergency as a member of Company I, One Hundred and Ninety-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, being honorably discharged at the close of hostilities. He served as trustee of Findlay township and was a member of the Knights of Honor. In 1894 he purchased forty acres of the farm upon which Sorely, his son, now lives, and to which the latter added forty more acres. His family numbered five children, of whom Sorely is the only survivor. John Larkins died October 26, 1900, and his wife's death occurred October 18, 1886.

Our subject was reared and educated in Findlay, and in early life began the career of a farmer, which vocation he has followed with success up to the present time. August 21, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella, daughter of Ganett and Mary Harkness, who was born in Allen township, Hancock county, Ohio, October 13, 1860. No children have been born to this union. In 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Larkins removed to their present home, where he enjoys the full confidence of his fellow citizens. He is a young man full of promise, and his future looks remarkably bright.

JACOB BOWERS.

A prominent family which has had connection with Hancock county for seven decades is represented by the above named gentleman, who resides in Big Lick township on a farm of seventy-seven acres. His parents removed to Ohio from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, of which they were both natives. His father's name was Samuel Bowers, his mother's maiden name being Mary Rangler. Their respective families had removed to Ohio and located in Stark county, where they were married and in 1836 settled in Hancock county on one hundred and twenty acres of land which Jacob Bowers, the father, had previously entered. This original farm was improved, and in 1860 the farm which is now the property of his son Jacob was purchased. Samuel Bowers was one of those easy-going men of large heart, whose word could be relied upon at all times. He and his wife were consistent members of the Dunkard church to the time of their deaths, that of the father occurring in 1895 and of the mother two years later. They reared a family of eleven children, eight of whom are now living.

Jacob Bowers, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, in 1841. He passed through the uneventful experience of a country boy, while laying the foundation of a

character which has been revered among his associates for its many excellencies during his lifetime. He chose agriculture as his occupation, and has been engaged in it during the whole of his adult life, owning his present farm since 1876. Mr. Bowers has been twice married. His first marriage was to Miss Sara Shubert and occurred in 1866. She was born in Seneca county, Ohio, and died in 1884, after becoming the mother of three children: Augusta M.; J. W., deceased; and Alma S. The following year Mr. Bowers married Miss Lydia Stecker, a union which was followed by no issue. Mr. and Mrs. Bowers are consistent members of the United Brethren church. John W. Bowers, the second child by the first marriage, was a young man of great promise, having been educated for the life of a teacher, and at the time of his death was regarded as a very successful member of that profession in Hancock county. He was exceedingly active in the work of the church, of which he was a most worthy member, and his death cast a gloom over a large circle of friends and acquaintances in Hancock county. Mr. Bowers has a large circle of friends, having many qualities which commend him to the good will and high regard of those with whom he is associated. For more than seventy years his family has been identified with Hancock county, and its members have ever been active in supporting measures which promised to contribute to the substantial upbuilding and material development of the county or state.

E. W. HALE.

The descendants of pioneers in Ohio are among the leading citizens of to-day in every walk of life, and this is especially true of the sons of farmers, themselves pioneers in all but actual proprietorship of the land, who helped to clear primitive farms and put them under cultivation, and who, coming to the state in boyhood, or even younger, have witnessed the whole process of development from the day of small but significant things to the fruition of efforts which characterizes the state as one of the foremost in the Union at this time. Such a citizen is Mr. E. W. Hale, some account of whose interesting antecedents and worthy achievements will now be attempted.

The grandfather of our subject was Randal Hale, one of the pioneers of Hancock county. He was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and there he married Ann Taylor, also a native of that city, and a full cousin to President Zachary Taylor. The Taylors were wealthy planters of Maryland and owned a number of slaves, some of which were inherited by our sub-

ject's grandmother, who, when she reached her majority, gave them their freedom, an event which in that day created very great interest and brought down upon her the criticism of the slave-holding element. Randal Hale and his wife were married in Baltimore, and removed to Jefferson county, Ohio, about 1796, where they reared a family of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity. In that county Randal Hale owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, but, foreseeing the need of provision for his large family while there was plenty of new land in the state, he in 1832 removed to Seneca county, locating for a short time in what is now Fostoria. He remained there, however, but a short period, when he removed to Hancock county, where he entered eight quarter sections of land, one for each of his children, and of these four were in Washington township and two across the line in Wood county. Randal Hale was a blacksmith by trade, and an excellent mechanic in his day. He was a man of temperate habits, and opposed to the use of intoxicating drink. He was a kind husband, a loyal citizen and loving father. During his life he was a member with his wife of the Methodist Episcopal church, and they were instrumental in that early day in grafting Methodism well into the institutions and society of the county. In political affiliations he was a supporter of the Whig party. His death occurred in 1849, that of the wife five years later. The sons succeeded the father and became useful citizens of Hancock county. One of these sons was Isaac T., father of the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1820. He followed agricultural pursuits and was counted a man well versed in the farming industry. He was a man of truth and uprightness, and left his impress on the social life of the community for good. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He married Miss Alpha, daughter of Elijah McRill, in 1841, and to them were born a family of eight children, four of whom still survive: E. W., R. B., M. E. and Eliza. The mother of the family died May 27, 1884, and Isaac T. departed this life June 10, 1901.

E. W. Hale was born in Washington township, on the farm which he now operates, the date being April 8, 1853. He was reared and educated in his native township, receiving an excellent elementary education. After he left school he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and with the exception of seven years spent in the manufacture of tile he has confined himself to farming. He is now operating the old homestead of one hundred and fifty-five acres of choice land. Upon this farm his father caused to be built a large and commodious brick house in 1875. The other buildings were erected by him also, all of them constituting very handsome improvements.

The marriage of Mr. E. W. Hale occurred in 1882, the lady being Miss Laura Boyles, a native of West Virginia. Two children were born, Allie and J. Hale. Mr. and Mrs. Hale are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are held in the highest esteem by the citizens of the county among whom they reside.

Russell B. Hale, a deceased son of Isaac T. Hale, had a notable war record. On the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted in Company H, Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Army of the Potomac. He was chosen color bearer on account of his great height, six feet six inches. In this position he gallantly bore Old Glory until his health broke down in 1862, and he was sent to the hospital for treatment. Here he was very improperly cared for, and was in danger of losing his life, when he was finally discharged and returned home, where he was nursed back to health by his family. He re-enlisted in the Eighty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1863, in which command he served eleven months, when he was honorably discharged. Again taking up the cause of the old flag, he re-enlisted, this time in his old regiment, in which organization he served until the close of the war, again being honorably discharged. His decease occurred in 1868.

A. H. CLYMER, Sr.

A. H. Clymer, Sr., is a representative of honored pioneers of this great commonwealth, and he has won for himself a prominent place among the leading horticulturists of Hancock county. He is a native son of Union township, this county, where his birth occurred on the 1st of January, 1866. His paternal grandparents, Francis and Susan Clymer, removed from Fairfield county, Ohio, to Union township in 1834, where the father entered from the government one hundred and sixty acres of timber land, and this he cleared and improved and subsequently added to until his landed possessions were quite extensive. He afterward, however, divided his property among his children. C. F. Clymer, a son of this worthy old pioneer couple, and the father of our subject, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and he, too, followed the tilling of the soil as a life occupation. By his marriage to Mary M. Sigefuss, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, he became the father of five children, three of whom are now living, but our subject is the only representative of the family in Hancock county. C. F. Clymer was called to his final rest in 1878, but he is still survived by his widow.

A. H. Clymer, Sr., of this review, was reared in the township of his nativity, and in its public schools received his early mental training, there

fitting himself for his future life of usefulness. He remained on the old parental homestead until he was married, and in the following year, 1886, purchased of the remaining heirs the home farm, where he is now extensively engaged in horticultural pursuits. His farm consists of fifty acres, on which he has planted one thousand six hundred peach trees, which have been selected with great care from the best stock and consist of different varieties. He also cultivates one hundred plum trees, the fruit being of rare beauty and flavor, he has one hundred cherry trees, while his fifty pear trees, of the finest and choicest varieties, are in bearing from the early summer until late in the autumn. All his fruit finds a ready sale and commands the highest market price. In addition to the larger fruits Mr. Clymer also raises all kinds of berries, with the exception of strawberries, the soil of this locality not being adapted to the production of that commodity.

In 1885 Mr. Clymer was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Reese, who was born in Liberty township, Hancock county, Ohio, on the 5th of April, 1867, and she is a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Reese. Three children have come to brighten and bless this home: Mamie, who was born January 9, 1888; Bernice, born March 30, 1890; and Lester, born April 25, 1895. Both Mr. and Mrs. Clymer are members of the Evangelical church of Benton Ridge, and they are also connected with the Daughters of America. Mr. Clymer affiliates with the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. Honor and integrity are synonymous with his name, and he enjoys the respect, confidence and high regard of the community.

JOHN H. CROSS.

John H. Cross is one of the prominent retired farmers of Hancock county, and after a life of active industry he has earned a competence which enables him to rest and enjoy the comforts of the world unalloyed by the disturbing cares of business. His parents were George and Mary M. (Smaltz) Cross, the former born in Maryland and the latter a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. They came to Hancock county in 1839 and located on Limestone Ridge, where they entered eighty acres of government land and bought two other eighties at second hand. George Cross was a practical farmer and a man of influence and ability; he served as trustee of the township for several years. His death occurred in October, 1865, but his wife survived until August, 1898. They had a family of seven children, of whom four are now living.

John H. was born in Fairfield county on the 17th of December, 1832,

and was, therefore, but seven years of age when he was brought by his parents to this county. He received his education in the common schools and remained at home until his majority, learning all that goes to make up the pursuit of a farmer. He confined himself to this calling until his retirement a few years ago, and he now resides in Vanlue, in which town he has served in the responsible position of mayor for two years. He has also been councilman and was constable of the township for twelve years. He is a member of the United Brethren church, and has been one of its trustees for twenty-one years. He has always given the strength of his influence to the side of right and progress and is to-day one of the worthy citizens of his community.

In 1853 Mr. Cross became the husband of Miss Catherine Shoop, and four children were born to them, two of whom are living, Thomas M. and Clement L. Cross. Catherine Cross died in 1894. In November, 1899, Mr. Cross was again married, to Miss Lucinda M. Piper, who was born in Canada June 19, 1859, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth J. Piper. Thomas Piper was a man of large business abilities and was a resident of Hamilton, Canada, for fifty years; he was the owner of several vessels which plied between the port of Ontario and ports of the United States. He was also a large property owner in the States and in Canada, and owned and lived on a large fruit plantation in Knoxville, Virginia, for a few years. The Pipers are one of the first families of Canada and Rev. F. C. Piper, the brother of Mrs. Cross, is the Episcopal minister at Hamilton.

H. D. SWANK.

It is well that not all the old settlers have been called to their final reward, if for no other reason than that we may understand the true caliber of those hardy veterans of toil who made the middle west the center of the commercial empire of the world. They are a truly remarkable class of men, inured to hardship and experienced in a mode of life which will never have its like in this country again, for while the twentieth century will be brilliant with all the glory of modern invention and wonderful scientific achievement and progress, the nineteenth was the real age of development of the material resources of the country, and prepared for that which was to come. For over seventy years H. D. Swank has been a living witness of this advance, and he is certainly worthy of some recognition in the historical annals of the men of Hancock county, Ohio.

Grandfather Swank, who founded the family in America, was born in

Germany, so that on one side of the house there is good German blood. His son was Christian Swank, and was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared and learned the trade of blacksmith. When he was in young manhood he came to Richland county, Ohio, and was the village blacksmith of the community for some years, but he later came to Knox county and entered some land in Pike township; he cleared and improved this land and at the same time attended to the needs of his neighbors by setting up a shop on his land, in which he shod horses and did all the blacksmithing for the country. He lived on this place until his death, the span of his life having covered the long period from 1791 to 1869; during this time he had been a firm adherent of the Democratic party. His wife, who was of Irish descent, was Susanna Downing, who was born in 1800 and died in 1856. They had three daughters and two sons: Eliza is deceased; George and Henry D. are the sons; Mary is deceased; while the remaining daughter is Susanna.

Henry was born on his father's place in Pike township, Knox county, on April 9, 1827, and remained in this county until he had reached years of manhood. He has a vivid recollection of the old log schoolhouse in which his early education was obtained, the days of schooling being frequently punctured by the hard labor of the farm. On becoming of age he found for himself a wife and on January 13, 1849, he took up his residence in Orange township, Hancock county. The place was in the midst of the woods, and the first house which he built for the shelter of his family was made of round, unhewn logs, not a place for the physical comfort he would have desired, but it was the scene of some of the happiest hours of his life. He lived in this for some years and devoted himself to clearing the farm and raising general farm products. He still owns the farm of one hundred and eight acres, and has so improved it that one would hardly recognize it as the former place. As one of the old settlers Mr. Swank has borne his part in the affairs of the township, having served as one of the trustees. He has always voted for the candidates of the Republican party, and he and his wife have been members of the Disciples church, in which he was deacon.

Mr. Swank and Miss Nancy Dilts were married May 11, 1848. She was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, December 11, 1823, and her father, William, was a native of the same state; he was a farmer and in 1826 came to Knox county, Ohio, but he later removed to Iowa, where he died in his eighty-second year. Her mother, Margaret Killerman, was a native of Pennsylvania and died in Richland county, Ohio, in 1844. Nancy was the second of twelve children, ten of whom grew to maturity, and she was

reared in Richland county. The seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Swank all came to the light of day in the log house in Orange township and most of them have some recollection of that first scene of life. Only four of these children are now living: William, a farmer of Knox county; Christian R., of Hancock county; Casper E., living in Kansas; and Hamilton R., who lives at home. Of the deceased, Susan was married and left two sons, William and Charlie. Three children survived the daughter Nancy Jane,—Bert, Vim and Floyd. Albert is the name of the deceased son.

PHILIP FLAMION.

This gentleman is one of the popular farmers of Marion township, who by thrift and industry has established himself in a comfortable home and now ranks among the enterprising citizens of his community. His parents, John and Martha Flamion, were natives of Belgium, where they spent their entire lives in the enjoyment of general respect among their neighbors.

Philip Flamion was born on the homestead in Belgium, August 2, 1848, and was trained in the economical farm methods of that country, remaining there until about twenty-five years of age. In 1873 he emigrated to America, made his way to Ohio and located in Clinton county. After spending two years in Clinton and Henry counties he changed his locality to Hancock county in 1875. After his arrival he followed various callings for five or six years, turning his hand to whatever he found to do and not fearing hard work if it gave promise of future advancement. By saving his earnings and avoiding all extravagant expenditures, Mr. Flamion was able by 1881 to purchase the sixty-eight acres of land which has since constituted his home. When the discovery of oil was made in Hancock county Mr. Flamion was fortunate enough to be found in the belt, and in time six producing oil wells were developed on his farm. These add materially to his revenue, and with what he obtains by judicious husbanding make him a very comfortable income and place him among the happy class of independent farmers. During his occupancy his farm has been greatly improved as the result of much hard work, and considerable money expended upon it by its enterprising owner. Notable among the improvements are some fine buildings erected by Mr. Flamion, which are of modern style, commodious and altogether a credit not only to the owner but to the neighborhood.

In 1873, shortly before his departure for the new world, Mr. Flamion was married in Paris, France, to Miss Mary Perry, a native and worthy daughter of the famous French capital. This union, which has proved con-

genial in all respects and brought much happiness to both participants, has been fruitful as well as blissful; Mr. and Mrs. Flamion have had eleven children, two of whom were taken away by death, those living being named as follows: Nicholas, August, Louisa, Charles, Oliver, Emily, Joseph, William and Martha. All of the family are devoted members of the Roman Catholic church, and the Flamion family comes near to being an ideal one, so great is the mutual affection for each other displayed by every member of the household.

WILLIAM SHARNINGHAUSE.

Those persons who are always complaining of lack of opportunity, talking of "hard times," insisting that they have had "no chance" and declaring their inability to "get along" on the ordinary wages paid to ordinary men, may learn a valuable lesson by reading the following brief biographical sketch. About the middle of the last century there lived in Hanover, Germany, a worthy couple named Henry and Mary Sharninghause. They were extremely poor, but being industrious and honest they were respected by those who knew them best. After lives of weary struggle against the hard conditions then prevailing in the old world, these honest people ended their days in their native Alsace with little more of this world's goods than they possessed in the beginning.

Unto this couple was born on December 12, 1849, a child whom they christened William. As they had nothing to give him but their blessing, and as circumstances at home were very straitened, this little boy was compelled to earn his living at the tender age of seven. He was set to herding cows by a gentleman in the neighborhood, who was kind enough to give him employment; the latter was glad enough to obtain the pittance which this work brought to himself and his poor old parents. Little William contracted, or "bound himself," for five years, the remuneration beginning with nine dollars for the first twelve months, twelve for the second, fifteen for the third, forty for the fourth and fifty for the fifth and last. Added up, William found his pay amounted to one hundred and twenty-six dollars, which, though it may seem small to many, looked like a princely fortune to this friendless German boy. Right here is where the lesson we spoke of comes in most forcibly. Every dollar of this money was put to the best possible use by William, in purchasing passage to America. He landed in 1869, when about twenty years old, but before he could secure work his little store had dwindled to six dollars. In the same year, however, he man-

aged to reach Hancock county, Ohio, took up his abode in Allen township and went to work at whatever he could get to do. This he continued four and a half years, and one year before the expiration of that time he had saved five hundred dollars. That means much in the hands of a thrifty and economical German, and William Sharninghause knew what to do with his hard-earned gains. During the seven years which followed his period of "working out" he rented farms, worked hard, saved in every possible way and in 1881 was able to purchase seventy acres of land for himself. By 1896 he succeeded in adding enough more to make his present holdings of one hundred and fifty acres. Those who now visit Mr. Sharninghause's hospitable home will find that he has erected a fine and substantial barn, besides remodeling the house and putting on other finishing touches, which make his place decidedly cosy and attractive and one of the most comfortable residences in Portage township.

Such is the story of a truly self-made man who shows us how much can come from little and how nerve and pluck will overcome the direst poverty and the most adverse circumstances. Like all wise men, Mr. Sharninghause decided at an early age to select a partner to share his joys as well as his sorrows, and to assist and comfort him in the struggles of life. His choice fell upon Miss Dora Kuhlman, to whom he was wedded in 1872, and who made him the happy father of four bright and promising children, named respectively, James M., George F., Henry W. and Ora. Parents and children are members of the German Lutheran church, in which Mr. Sharninghause has held the offices of deacon and trustee for twelve years. But though attentive to his church duties and a respecter of religion, Mr. Sharninghause considers that the whole duty of man is summed up in the simple creed "Do unto others as you would wish others to do unto you," and it is his aim to carry this out in his every day life, well assured that the observance of this golden rule includes all the moral code. After saying this much, it is hardly necessary to add that with his thrift, his honest methods and his genial disposition William Sharninghause deserves and enjoys general respect among his neighbors and acquaintances. And this good will and esteem his worthy wife and amiable children also enjoy with their estimable father.

ROBERT A. COOPER.

Among those fortunate persons who "struck oil" as the result of the discoveries in the Findlay section of Ohio, none were more deserving of their good luck than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is a native

of Hancock county, being descended from early settlers, and the family has always stood well in the community. Robert A. Cooper was born January 6, 1853, on the farm in Portage township where he now resides, his parents being Amos and Elizabeth A. (Poe) Cooper. He was brought up and educated in his native township and has always followed farming as a means of livelihood from the time he was able to work. It was July 22, 1884, that Mr. Cooper first made an investment in land, his purchase consisting of forty acres situated in Portage township, which was later increased by an inheritance of forty acres more. The acquisition of these eighty acres of land proved timely and profitable, as the discovery of oil in Hancock county resulted in the development of ten wells on Mr. Cooper's place, which are now in operation and yielding a good revenue.

On October 22, 1874, Mr. Cooper was married to Miss Mary J., daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Knoka, a native of Allen township, where she was born August 9, 1854. Edwin H. Cooper, the eldest of the two sons resulting from this union, was born January 12, 1878, graduated at the Angola (Indiana) Normal School and is now attending the Homeopathic Medical College of Chicago. Clarence M. Cooper, the youngest son, was born December 13, 1881, and is at present a student at the Angola Normal. Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Cooper are worthy members of the Blanchard Presbyterian church and much esteemed by the wide circle of acquaintances who have known them for years and found them true to all duties and requirements of good citizenship. Mr. Cooper is not an aspirant for office, wastes no time on the intrigues of politics, but attends strictly to his business and aims to vote intelligently for what he regards as the best interests of county, state and nation. In the sketch of Isaac W. Cooper, on another page of this volume, will be found additional and interesting particulars of the family history.

PHILIP WEIROUGH.

It is a common remark throughout the United States that no country of the world has contributed to the great republic a more desirable class of emigrants than Germany. Wherever one goes, he will assuredly hear it said: "These Germans make mighty fine citizens." They are always law-abiding, well educated, genial in disposition, quick to "catch on" and trained in those habits of economy and thrift which are so valuable in early life. They seem to succeed at everything they undertake, whether it be running a butcher shop, a bakery, a store, a candy stand or a farm. The central west-

ern states have been especially fortunate in obtaining this fine stream of emigration, and no other state received a finer selection than Ohio.

Of the many thousands of Germans who have settled in the great and prosperous Buckeye state during the last half century were Nicholas and Mary Weirough. They came over in 1859 and located at Findlay, where the husband first obtained employment as engineer for the Adams foundry. Mr. Weirough, however, had aspirations to become a farmer and in 1870 bought eighty acres of unimproved land in Portage township. To this he removed with his family, and the next few years were devoted to the hard work incident to clearing land and getting it into shape to compete with modern methods of agriculture. In due time, the rough place was cleared and cultivated, fenced and smoothed and improved until the original owner would not have recognized it. All the necessary buildings, combining both utility and ornament, and all those little adjuncts of shrubbery, nice walks and green sward, which go so far to beautify a country seat, were in due time added by the tasteful occupants. The worthy owners still enjoy life at the home their industry made, the father being ninety-one and the mother sixty-five years of age, and both much loved and respected by hosts of friends and acquaintances. Of their nine children, seven are living and all these are residents of Hancock county.

Among the number is Philip Weirough, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, June 23, 1861. He was reared and educated partly in Findlay and partin Portage township, to which his parents removed in his youth. After reaching maturity Mr. Weirough worked in the oil fields for a number of years, but eventually abandoned this occupation in order to take up farming. In 1899 he purchased eighty acres of fertile land in Portage township, to which he removed a year ago and which he is now engaged in cultivating. As he has inherited from his father those good qualities for which he was noted and is a man of intelligence and progressive ideas, there can be little doubt that Mr. Weirough will in time rank with the best of Hancock's agriculturists.

In 1884 occurred the happy nuptials of Philip Weirough and Miss Rachel, daughter of Jacob and Mary A. Rinehold, the bride being a native of Seneca county, Ohio, where she was born April 22, 1866. As the result of their union, Mr. and Mrs. Weirough have three bright and interesting children: John A., born June 8, 1885; Maud M., born September 15, 1886; and Clarence J., whose birth occurred September 16, 1888. No people in the county are more esteemed or have more friends than the Weirough family, both of the elder and younger generations.

RADO KEMPHER.

The subject of this sketch, whose name is given above, is one of many worthy representatives of a family of Dutch origin which settled in Hancock county many years ago and became a part of its stanchest citizenship. The original emigrants located in Pennsylvania, where they reared a family of four sons and four daughters, all of whom at a later day located in Hancock county. They arrived in 1837, and each of the sons purchased a half section of land, which they retained and cultivated during the remainder of their lives. The Kemphers proved to be a valuable acquisition to what was then a sparsely settled section of Ohio, as they were model farmers, people of upright lives, law-abiding and loyal as citizens. As they increased and multiplied by marriage, the family connection grew to be one of influence, and none of the early settlers commanded more esteem than this contribution from the land of steady habits beside the German Ocean.

Abraham Kempher, one of the four sons above alluded to, was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, in 1805 and grew to manhood in the place of his nativity. In 1834, three years before his emigration to Ohio, he was married to Susan Buzzard, also born in Northampton county, in 1816, and this union proved both fruitful and congenial. The names of their children in order of birth are thus recorded in the family Bible: Ann L., born April 8, 1836; Jacob, born December 8, 1837; Rebecca, deceased, born November 9, 1840; Mary, born February 16, 1842; John, born April 13, 1844; Frances L., born July 3, 1846; Rachel S., born June 9, 1849; Eli, born August 8, 1852; and Rado, born May 4, 1855. Abraham Kempher, the father of this family, was a quiet, peaceable man, who pursued the even tenor of his way throughout an unadventurous life and gained the good will of all with whom he came in contact. His farming operations were carried on with the thrift and industry characteristic of Hollanders, and his farm became one of the neatest and best cultivated in his township. The one hundred and sixty acres of land formerly owned by him were greatly increased in value by the discovery of oil, and at the present time contain ten productive wells. The old pioneer, however, did not live long enough to get the benefit of this, as he passed peacefully away from earth's struggles on the first day of April, 1877. He had survived his good wife many years, her death having occurred in 1860. The whole family, including parents as well as children, were lifelong members of the Disciples church at McComb.

Rado Kempher, whose birth occurred in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1855,

was the youngest of the children, and as he grew up displayed all the sturdy qualities of his ancestry. Like all of these, he adhered to the soil as an occupation and means of livelihood and is at present one of the best known farmers in Portage township. He has proved a worthy descendant of worthy sires, and ranks among the best of his neighborhood as an agriculturist and citizen. All of the Kemphers who came to Hancock county in 1837 have passed away, inculding his grandfather and father, as well as his uncles and aunts, but the rising generation contains many worthy representatives to perpetuate the honored name, and among these none is more deserving of notice than Rado Kempher. He is a man in whom all his neighbors have confidence, and as a farmer he occupies front rank among the many skillful agriculturists of the county. Mr. Kempher is unmarried, and like others of his name, almost without exception, is allied in politics with the Republican party.

JOSEPH J. HERMAN.

Besides industry and good judgment there are many other qualities which add to the success of the business man, especially the merchant, and among these are a genial and cordial manner and that courtesy which never fails to win and retain customers. One of these popular and prosperous merchants, located in the thriving town of Vanlue, Hancock county, Ohio, is Joseph J. Herman, who is the proprietor of a general store there. In the year 1899 he purchased this store from George Alspach and opened it with a fine display of goods in the same year. From the start he had a large patronage, and his numerous customers are increasing daily. His business is centrally located, his building is of commodious and convenient proportions and his stock is of the finest quality and always fresh from the manufacturers.

Mr. Herman is the son of Joseph and Catherine (Leitzel) Herman, natives of Pennsylvania, and in Union county of that state he was ushered into the world on the 13th of November, 1871; in the county of his nativity he was reared and in the district schools he received the elementary education which was to fit him for the duties of after life. He has been an extensive farmer and in connection with this occupation has dealt in hay, which latter branch he still carries on in conjunction with his mercantile interests.

Mr. Herman is not only a first-class business man but also stands high in social circles and has performed his part of the duties devolving upon American citizenship; he has held the office of councilman of his town with much credit, is a worthy member of the Knights of Pythias and belongs to

the United Brethren church, of which he is the efficient Sunday-school superintendent and one of the board of trustees. In the fall of 1897 Mr. Herman became the husband of Miss Laura E. Shuck, the accomplished daughter of Aaron and Matilda (Bright) Shuck; she was born on her father's farm in Big Lick township, July 19, 1874. Of this union one son was born, August 14, 1901, whom they have named Russell.

ISAAC L. SHULL.

The family of this name became established in Hancock county as early as 1833, in which year Solomon Shull took possession of two hundred and forty acres of land in Amanda township, part of which tract is now included in Wyandot county. This original settler left three sons, Isaac, Benjamin and Joseph, who inherited all the property at the time of his death and divided it into three equal parts. Benjamin, the second of these sons, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, September 15, 1815, and in early manhood was married to Christina Kitsmiller, a native of Fairfield county and about two years his junior. In 1846 they removed to Hancock county and settled on the inherited land above mentioned, which was their home during all the subsequent years of their lives. When Benjamin took possession of his third of the estate, amounting to eighty acres, it was practically in its raw state, as scarcely a beginning of improvements had been made. His first act was to build a log cabin in which to house his wife and little ones until something better could be substituted, and in this rude structure they lived until 1859. During his occupancy this farm was so greatly improved that its first owner would not have known it, and by clearing, fencing, rotation of crops, thorough cultivation and addition of all necessary outbuildings it was converted into a productive and valuable estate. Benjamin Shull became a noted character in the neighborhood on account of his cleverness with the ax, that indispensable weapon of the Ohio pioneer. Whenever there was to be a house-raising Ben was sure to be one of the invited guests and usually was awarded the honor of "holding up the corner." He had great skill in erecting those rude log structures which housed the first comers, as well as their descendants for one or two generations, and in his own affairs was a man of untiring industry. His marriage, which occurred in 1840, was productive of six children: John H., Mary A., William C., Harmon T., Sylvanus and Isaac L. The parents, who were life-long members of the United Brethren church, have both passed away, the death of

Mrs. Christina Shull having occurred March 23, 1892, and that of the husband September 15, 1902.

Isaac L. Shull, youngest of the children, was born on his father's farm in Hancock county, Ohio, January 24, 1855, and grew to manhood in his native township. His education was obtained partly in the district schools and partly in the high schools at Vanlue and Findlay. With the exception of six years in the latter place his whole life has been spent in Amanda township in the prosecution of agricultural pursuits, to which he had been trained from boyhood. For twenty-four years he and his brother Sylvanus operated a threshing machine in partnership, and this firm became known far and wide for the amount as well as excellence of the work they did for grain growers over a wide area of Ohio territory. In 1893 Mr. Shull took possession of his possession of his present homestead, consisting of one hundred and forty-six acres, of which fifty-six acres lie in Wyandot county. He devotes this place to general farming and stock-raising, and is regarded in the neighborhood as one of the most progressive and successful of the township's farmers, while also being considered an authority on various agricultural subjects.

On November 23, 1876, Mr. Shull was married to Eleanor, daughter of John and Nancy A. Crawford, from which union have resulted two children: Truman W., born November 27, 1881, and Anna M., born March 28, 1883. The family are members of the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Shull has been a class leader and steward, and he was for some time president of the board of education.

JOHN Z. SAMPSON.

This gentleman, one of the prosperous farmers of Amanda township, is descended on the side of both mother and father from early settlers of Hancock county. The family originated from Eli and Ann Sampson, who emigrated from Maryland in the early part of the nineteenth century and took part in developing Hancock county. Among their children was a son named David, who was born in Jackson township and became a prosperous farmer, accumulated considerable wealth and rose to a position of prominence in his community. He was influentially connected with township affairs and served both as superintendent and trustee. David Sampson married Melinda Hoy, a member of the old pioneer family of that name, and of their ten children seven are living. The father lost his life in 1899, as the result of being struck by a falling tree, but his widow still survives in a good old age.

John Z. Sampson, son of the last mentioned couple, was born in Amanda

township, March 30, 1864, and has spent all his life in the locality of his nativity. He attended the township schools and finished his education at Mount Blanchard. After leaving school he "buckled down" to hard work and has ever since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has prospered, and at present owns a neat place of seventy-five acres in Amanda township, which is devoted to general farming and stock-raising. He is of industrious habits, a good manager and altogether one of the representative men of the generation of farmers who have come up in Hancock county since the Civil war. On September 4, 1894, Mr. Sampson was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Dragoo, of Indiana, but has no children. They are members of the Methodist Protestant church and are good citizens of the community in every sense of the word.

D. W. FITCH.

The purpose of this brief sketch will be to give the life history of one of Hancock county's live and progressive agriculturists, who has also made a success in other lines of business. The parents of the subject of this sketch were William and Martha Fitch, both natives of Pennsylvania, the father from Beaver county of that state. In 1837 they came to Ohio and located on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wyandot county, which they entered from the government. William Fitch was a good farmer, a worthy citizen and a true Christian in every sense of the word, for many years being prominently connected with the Presbyterian church and for several years serving as elder. His wife was a godly woman, whose kind and beneficent training is still remembered by her loving children. The husband passed away in 1857, and the wife in 1890.

Their son, D. W. Fitch, was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, on the 4th day of May, 1845; the old homestead was the scene of his boyish pleasures and sorrows, and in the familiar schoolhouse he learned the lessons and received the discipline in common with the other boys of the neighborhood. His principal vocation in life has been farming, but he has also tried other pursuits; for five years he conducted a grocery store in Hardin county, Ohio, to which county he removed in 1883; in 1890 he went to Findlay, Hancock county, and became the agent of a publishing house. He finally turned his attention to farming and at first rented land, moving about from place to place, as is the custom, in this and Wood counties; in 1894 he sustained a great loss, when his house and all its contents were destroyed by the flames. In 1900 he purchased his present farm of one hundred and twelve

acres of valuable land and is now devoting it to general farming, in which he has been very successful.

In 1867 Mr. Fitch was married to Sarah Andrews, who was born in London, England, and came to America when she was seven years of age. They have four children: Florence, Ivy, Frank and Hazel. Mr. Fitch has filled with credit several township offices, and has a good record in every department of life.

DAVID U. CHAMBERS.

The family of Chambers, though identified with Ohio from an early period, is of Virginia origin. Elias Chambers, founder of the name in the Buckeye state, married Catherine Stockman, of Pennsylvania, and settled in Crawford county, Ohio, as far back as 1825, entered one hundred and twenty acres of timbered land and made the first use of his trees to build a cabin. This pioneer couple had seven children: Susan, the first born, afterward Mrs. Steen, was an infant at the time of the settlement; William, deceased; Catherine, who married J. Steen; Peter, deceased; David; Daniel; and Aaron. David Chambers, fifth of these children, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, December 24, 1833, and grew to manhood at the place of his nativity. Shortly after reaching his majority he came to Hancock county, where he worked by the day for various persons and eventually was employed to do farm work for his uncle, William Chambers, on the place which he now owns. He has made it one of the desirable farms of Big Lick township, the land being highly improved and cultivated by up-to-date methods. He has gained standing, not only as a good farmer, but as a model citizen, and has filled acceptably the office of constable, trustee and other township offices. April 26, 1859, David Chambers was married to Sarah A., daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Smith) Sargent, natives of Hampshire county, West Virginia, who came to Ohio in 1825. The children of this union are Nora C., David V., Greely, Della, Clinton, Cora and Wesley.

David U. Chambers, second of the above enumerated children, was born on his father's farm in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, September 4, 1866, and grew to maturity in the usual manner of boys of his class. He attended the neighborhood schools in term time and at other periods assisted with the farm work, learning those details of the business which were to be useful to him in after life. In 1890 he became the owner of eighty acres of valuable land in Big Lick township, which he has since cultivated and made his place of residence. He devotes his place to general farming and stock-

raising, not attempting any fancy farming, and is regarded as one of the most promising of the younger generation of agriculturists in his part of the county. He is industrious and ambitious, as all the surroundings will show, his farm being kept in good order, and equipped with all the modern conveniences. Mr. Chambers has neither sought nor cared for office in a general way, but at the urgency of his neighbors accepted the position of township trustee, and served efficiently for three years. In the fall of 1889 Mr. Chambers was united in marriage with Miss Isadore, daughter of John and Sarah Bright, the bride being a native of Big Lick township and born there December 7, 1867. The five children resulting from this union are: Lillian M., born November 7, 1890; Edna C., born November 15, 1891; Garnet R., born May 17, 1894; Audrey C., born March 22, 1898; and Mabel D., born July 31, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers are both consistent members of the Evangelical church, in which the former holds the position of trustee.

SAMUEL B. THOMAS.

This gentleman deserves to be ranked among the early pioneers, as he is a native of Ohio and has lived in the state for eighty years. He is a son of James and Mary A. (Campbell) Thomas, both natives of Ireland, where the former was born in 1784 and the latter in 1786. They emigrated to America in 1818, first locating at Norfolk, Virginia, where they made a short stay and then moved to Pennsylvania, from which place they subsequently migrated to Wayne county, Ohio. In 1835 they came to Hancock county, where Mr. Thomas purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, upon which he erected a log hut, eighteen by twenty feet, and there resided for several years. By much hard work these worthy immigrants succeeded in improving this land until it became a valuable farm. Mr. Thomas was a hard working man, possessed that geniality for which his countrymen are so well noted, and by his upright life gained a multitude of friends. Both himself and wife were members of th Presbyterian church, and they followed out the precepts of their religion in their daily intercourse with their fellow men. Mr. Thomas died in Hancock county, August 10, 1870, and his wife passed away January 6, 1868.

Of their family of twelve children five are still living, including Samuel B. Thomas, the subject of this sketch, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 9, 1822. At the age of twelve years he moved with his parents to Hancock county, where he was brought up to do all kinds of farm work and remained at home until 1847. In that year he was married to Miss Elizabeth

Struble, by whom he had three children: Mary A., Bradford and Alma, the latter deceased. In 1845 Mr. Thomas purchased the farm on which he now resides, consisting of eighty acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation and devotes to general farming. He has greatly improved the place in every respect, especially by the erection of substantial buildings, constructed on the most modern plan and especially adapted to the duties for which they are designed. Everybody speaks of Samuel B. Thomas as a successful citizen who can be relied upon to meet every contract, whether it be in writing or not, and he conscientiously performs every duty to his fellow man both in public and in private life.

CHARLES S. JOHNSTON.

This gentleman is conspicuous in Marion township as the owner of a valuable dairy farm cansisting of one hundred and twenty acres, which is devoted to general farming and stock-raising. He keeps thirty cows of a superior Jersey breed, mostly registered, besides a lot of young stock. He deals extensively in cream and sells twenty gallons of this product per day.

His parents were David and Elizabeth (Griggs) Johnston, the former born in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 19, 1819, and the latter in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, August 14, 1823. They were married in Fairfield county, and in 1853 removed to Hancock county, where they located on the farm now owned by their son, H. H. Johnston, who also conducts an extensive dairy. The eighty acres originally purchased contained but few improvements, but in the course of years this land was cleared and made valuable. Commodious buildings were erected and other changes made, which have brought the farm up to the highest standard characteristic of that section of Ohio. Mr. Johnston, both in his private and business life, enjoys the reputation of being a good, honest and trustworthy man, who not only preaches but practices the golden rule. He was a consistent member of the United Brethren church, in which he held the position of class-leader and also other offices of importance. His house had the reputation of being the "preachers' home," owing to the fact that Mr. Johnston so often and so hospitably entertained the gentlemen of the cloth. This worthy man died in 1883, but his widow still survives and is enjoying the evening of life surrounded by hosts of friends and children, who regard her with the utmost affection. The latter, four in number, are named as follows: Samuel, born in October, 1844; Mary A., born July 15, 1846, and is now deceased; Charles S., born May 30, 1848; and H. H. The great-great-grand-

mother of Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston was a Miss Huffman, of royal blood and an English princess, who during the uprising in Ireland fell in love with an Irish nobleman, but he being outside the royal family his wife was disinherited and afterward fled with her husband to America, where their descendants became valiant soldiers in defense of American independence during the Revolutionary struggle.

Charles S. Johnston, the third of the children in order of birth and the subject of this sketch, grew up on the farm and became thoroughly familiar with all the details connected with agricultural pursuits. He has held a position of prominence and influence both in business and political circles, serving as justice of the peace and a member of the county executive Republican committee for a number of years. He is rather fond of politics and always takes an active interest in the political contests, both local and general. On October 20, 1870, he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth, a daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Miller) Connor, and the result of this union, which has been an ideally happy one, has been the birth of eight children: Winifred M., the eldest of these, is now a practicing physician in Findlay; Effie and Jennie are dead; Edward and Fred are twins; D. M.; William M.; and Frank, deceased.

Mr. Johnston purchased the farm which he is now conducting in 1887, and has greatly improved it by the erection of the commodious residence and other valuable buildings especially adapted to the dairy business. In addition to being regarded as an up-to-date farmer and successful stock-raiser Mr. Johnston ranks as one of the most popular citizens of his township.

CHARLES BEAMER.

A mention of the prominent farmers of Washington township would hardly be complete without noting the name of this representative of the agricultural interests, who owns and operates a farm of one hundred and ninety acres. The family of which he is an honored representative is of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. He is the son of George and Elizabeth (Study) Beamer. George Beamer was born in the state of Maryland in 1791, and Elizabeth Study was born in Pennsylvania in 1809. They married in Pennsylvania, where they lived for a number of years, and in 1848 located in Hancock county, Ohio. Mr. George Beamer had been a soldier in the war of 1812, and in compensation he received, besides his regular pay, a grant of land from the government. He located on a farm of eighty acres of virgin soil, upon which he built the usual log cabin, and endured all the hardships

which were the lot of the hardy band of pioneers of that early day. George Beamer, like most of his neighbors, was a poor man, but he was not to be kept poor, for he was hard working, honest and trustworthy, qualities which coupled with a keen business judgment and foresight, made him successful in the securing of a competence. He was not a man who sought office, but delighted in the support of the principles of the Democratic party. His family consisted of twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity but two, and seven of this number survive at the present writing, whose names are as follows: Eve, Mary A., Barbara, George, William, Charles and Addison. The father of this family died in 1868, his wife having lived a period of six years longer.

Charles Beamer was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, July 10, 1838, and as he was ten years old when his parents came to Hancock county, most of his education was received in Big Lick township. He has fitted himself by years of toil and varied experience for his vocation in life, that of a farmer, and has proved himself pre-eminently successful. When he became of age he went out in the world with a full determination to reach the climax before the evening of life overtook him. The evidences of forethought, energy and push are seen in his well kept farm, and in his handsome and convenient buildings. As he remarked to the writer himself "the whole state of Ohio was bequeathed to me at my majority that I might make a living in it." In 1862 when his country needed men true and loyal to defend the integrity of the Union and prevent its disruption, he patriotically responded to his country's call. As a member of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, he battled for three years for the supremacy of "old glory." During that time he participated in the following battles: Mossy Creek, Nashville, Buzzards Roost, Franklin, Fort Fisher, and many minor engagements and skirmishes. During all that period he was faithful to his trust and was honorably discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1865, with a knowledge that he had done his duty to the country he so much loved. For four years following the war he resided at home, but in 1869 he purchased his father's property in Big Lick township, buying out the heirs. This property he has so remodeled and improved as to make it appear almost as another place. The property, it might be noted here, was formerly the home of Michael Roller.

Mr. Beamer is popular in the political arena, having served honorably and successfully as a trustee of his township, has been a member of the school board for long years, and is ever ready to take part in any enterprise that looks to the improvement of the citizens of his community. He was mar-

ried in November of 1866, to Miss Lucinda, the daughter of Moses and Mary McAnelly. His children are as follows: Perry, Lewis, Corlin, Irene and Mary E. Mrs. Beamer is a native of the township in which she resides, having been there born in 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Beamer stand high in the community where they have so long made their home, and no citizens of Big Lick township are more highly honored or respected.

ISAAC TEATSORTH.

Isaac Teatsorth is the descendant of James and Margaret Thompson Teatsorth, who were natives of Pennsylvania, the former having been born September 4, 1802, the latter November 6, 1804. They married September 14, 1826, and removed in early life to Harrison county, Ohio, where they remained a number of years, and where some of their children were born. In 1833 they removed to Findlay, Ohio, where they located, and James being an experienced miller, erected and operated a mill for the manufacture of various kinds of bread stuffs. In this business he prospered, his mill having been located where now stands the building in which the people belonging to the Church of God worship. In 1849, when the California fever was at its height, he made the journey to that country, where in a few years he amassed wealth enough to answer as a competence for the remainder of his days. He returned to Findlay and purchased a substantial home, where he lived out the remainder of his days, dying November 3, 1880. His wife lived until 1886, when on the 27th of September, she also died. In politics James Teatsorth was a Democrat, and while he made no pretensions as a professor of religion, he was an upright man in his private life. His family numbered nine children, four of whom are living: Ganett, who was born in 1828; Isaac, the subject of this sketch, who was born on May 1, 1830; Abraham, born in 1832; and the youngest son, James, born in 1846.

Isaac, whose name heads this biography, is one of the well known and substantial men of his township, where for twenty-five years he has successfully carried on milling. He was born in Harrison county, Ohio, and removed with his father to Findlay when only three years of age. He does not remember when he did not know something about a grist mill, being so intimately connected with his father from a very early period in his boyhood, and the latter, indeed, left him to attend to the running of the establishment much of the time. His education was received at Findlay in the common schools.

He was married to Miss Mary A., daughter of Henry and Maria Folk,

on May 30, 1856. To the union were born Elida, April 3, 1857; Charles, deceased, born August 30, 1858; Emma E., August 21, 1860; Sophia W., deceased, born November 9, 1862, Henry L., deceased, born July 4, 1865; George W., August 27, 1873; Clyde R., deceased, born February 19, 1875. Our subject removed from Findlay in 1874, and located in Hardin county, Ohio, where for the next two years he engaged in milling. On June 25, 1876, he purchased his present home and mill property. He manufactures all kinds of flour and feed, the mill having a capacity of one hundred barrels per day. In 1901 the city of Findlay purchased his dam privileges, since which time he has retired from active business. Mr. Teatsorth has four oil wells on his place, and his own home is lighted and warmed from his own wells. Mrs. Teatsorth is a lady of many gentle traits of character, and was born in Perry county, Ohio, April 3, 1833. Her father, Henry Folk, died July 28, 1878, having lived to the advanced age of seventy-five years. Her mother, Maria Folk, died June 17, 1842, at a very early age. Her grandfather, Nicholas Folk, was one of the early settlers of his section of the state, having entered his one hundred and sixty acres in 1831.

ISAAC M. GREENE.

Isaac M. Greene is the son of a veteran in more ways than one. His father was one of the first settlers of Hancock county and one of those who sacrificed time, prospects and life for their country upon the field of battle. On the maternal side Isaac is descended from the Hollenbacks of Fairfield county, where both his parents were born. John Greene, the father, was a farmer and sawyer who spent the best years of his manhood in leveling the forest and making the wilderness a fit place for civilization. When the struggle between the north and the south was on, he entered the One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Regiment of Volunteer Infantry for three years of active service. He lost his right arm in battle, and though small attention was paid to it at the time, he never fully recovered from the shock and in 1877 died from the effects of his wound. His wife Catherine is still alive. Seven of his nine children are living, four in Hancock county.

Isaac M. Greene has always lived in this county. He was born August 10, 1852, and got his education at home and in the district school. He very early went to farming, and has always been a hard worker and an honest man. He is thoroughly progressive and is now busily engaged in improving a new farm of eighty acres bought in 1902. On February 18, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Percy Handshy, a daughter of

Sebastian and Sarah Handshy, early settlers of this county. She was one of nine children, of whom five are living. Mrs. Greene was born in this county in 1850. She has made for her husband a very happy home. Once has a shadow come into their wedded life. On February 19, 1900, the angel of death hovered near and bore away the nineteen year old son Ira. Two sons only remain to them; they are: Hiram L., born February 5, 1876; and Marion O., born May 29, 1883. Ira A. was born on January 26, 1881, Mr. Greene belongs to the "Christian Union."

GEORGE M. GOODMAN.

This gentleman is one of the younger agriculturists of Hancock county, but has by his superior ability in the farming line and by consistent and earnest effort established for himself a reputation in that class not surpassed by many of the older farmers of the county. He resides in Marion township, and conducts an estate of six hundred acres of very valuable farming land. He was born in the township and on the present farm on the 24th of November, 1872. He is a man of superior education and intelligence, having had the advantages of both the lower and the higher grades of the Findlay public schools, and to this was added a course in the best business college in this section. He selected the vocation of a farmer from choice rather than from necessity. He is a young man of very great promise, and a bright future greets his progressive steps.

In matters of religious faith Mr. Goodman is an active supporter of the Methodist church, and is found ready at all times to give his support and influence to any enterprise that promises to advance the educational and religious life of the community. To preside over his home he selected Miss Bertha Hayes, the date of the marriage being October 19, 1900. She is a young lady of many graces of character, accomplished in manner, and of the very best breeding. She is the daughter of John C. and Calixta Hayes, and was born and reared in Hancock county.

Mr. Goodman is the son of Lawrence and Barbara (Mack) Goodman. The Goodmans are of German descent, the father having been a native of the fatherland, while the mother was born in Fairfield county, Ohio. Lawrence Goodman was a child of eight years when he crossed the ocean with his parents. They located in Marion township, where his father Joseph purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land and engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life. The Goodmans have always been supporters of the Lutheran church. The father of our subject was reared with

such advantages of education as could be procured in that early day. He was a first class business man and a practical and successful farmer. When he arrived at maturity, he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Marion township, and at intervals added to this original farm, until he became the owner of nine hundred acres. This was accomplished by hard personal labor on the farm rather than by any of the arts known to business. He combined with a cool head and fine judgment as to the future development of the country a splendid physical constitution. In connection with the accumulation of real estate in the country he early saw the advantage of investing in city real estate, and thus accumulated considerable property in Findlay. He died at the comparatively early age of fifty-six years in May, 1901. He had married twice, two children having come to him during his first marriage, and four by his second. The mother of our subject was his first wife.

A. H. SMITH

Well known in Hancock county, Mr. Smith is a worthy representative of its farming interests, and is a man whose sterling traits of character have made him popular with his business or social connections. He resides in Cass township on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he devotes to general produce. He was born in Big Lick township October 1, 1852, and is the son of George W. and Mary (Hoyt) Smith, both of whom are natives of New York state. His father is of Scotch parentage. This couple came to Hancock county, in 1844, and located in Big Lick township, purchasing a farm of two hundred acres, most of which was in its primitive wild state. During his residence in the county George W. Smith made a reputation for honest dealing, and filled in his time several of the township offices with credit. He was a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was an active worker, having been for many years a member of the governing board of that organization. Politically he favored the policies of the Republican party. His birth occurred in 1821, and he died in Hancock county in 1893; his wife, Mary, was born in 1819 and survived him, dying at the age of seventy-five. Their family numbered: Mary A., Aurilla, Amelia, A. H., M. C., Elmer J., Arabelle, and Myrtie.

A. H. Smith, who forms the subject of this review, received his early training and education in the township schools of Big Lick township, and with the exception of eight years spent in Findlay in handling agricultural implements his life has been devoted entirely to agricultural pursuits. He purchased his present farm in 1886, on which he has since resided. He

farms largely on the intensive plan, using a rotation of crops to enrich his fields, and is a lover of good stock, of which he has a large number on his farm. On December 1, 1873, he was united in marriage to Maggie A., daughter of Eli and Susanna Nead, and born on the farm where she now resides. To this union there was no issue. The circle of friends of which Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the center is extensive, and the regard in which they are held in their community is uniform.

GEORGE W. ELSEA.

One of the leading farmers and influential citizens of Marion township, Hancock county, for a long period of years, was this gentleman, George W. Elsea, now deceased. He resided on a farm in Marion township containing one hundred and twenty-five acres of valuable land, and during his life time devoted his entire attention to its cultivation. The date of his birth was May 17, 1842, the place being Eagle township in this county. Here he was reared and educated, and here he also began active life as a farmer. His parents were Moses and Mary A. Elsea, both of whom were natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, and subsequently removed to Hancock county. They in their time were among the substantial and practical people of the country, and reared a family of useful and respected children, who continue to honor the name.

When George W. came to maturity he adopted the calling of his people before him, and removed to the farm on which his widow now resides, in 1868. During the time of his residence there, he made vast improvements, erecting many modern buildings, and in other respects improved the farm, making it one of the most desirable rural homes in the county. He was a most practical farmer, and in his public relations was a loyal citizen and in his private relations a true and loving husband and father. He was greatly devoted to the church, having very early in life connected himself with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. During his life it was his delight to devote his talents to the cause of the Master in his lay position. He served for a long period of years as Sunday-school superintendent, and for much of his life was the main stay of the local church.

In 1863 he married Miss Mary A., the daughter of Jacob and Susannah Altman. This lady was born on the 5th of October, 1842, and belonged to one of the old and most respected families of Hancock county, whose history will be read elsewhere in this volume. She bore our subject five children, as follows: William S., born December 13, 1868, married Carry Essex, and to

this union have been born, Clarence, Edith, Philip and Leonard; Lemuel G., April 2, 1871, married Jennie Shuck, and they have one child, Eva; Mary N., May 27, 1874; Amanda J., April 12, 1878, married Mr. R. B. Hempy; and Lawrence A., August 6, 1880. Mrs. Elsea resides upon the old home farm, and continues to merit the love and esteem of her children and neighbors.

JOHN W. ZELLER.

Twenty-five years continuous service as superintendent of schools of the city of Findlay is evidence quite sufficient to mark Professor Zeller as a prominent figure in the educational interests of the great state of Ohio. During all of that period he has been prominently connected with every movement that had for its object the forwarding of educational interests, not only in his own state, but in the country at large. He is now and has been for years in close touch with the master minds in the educational fields of our country, and is a man who has done a very large amount of personal work in securing the excellent and unsurpassed school system with which the citizens of Findlay are favored.

We do not desire to present the life history of Professor Zeller here as presenting any points which are particularly remarkable. It, however, will not be without its value, as it may teach some youth the fact that only persistent effort is necessary to advance himself in the educational field. Professor Zeller was born in Union township, Hancock county, January 22, 1849. The period of boyhood was passed on the farm, on which he engaged in its activities, there building the physical frame and laying the foundation of that health which has always attended him subsequently. He attended the country school of his district during the winter time until he was seventeen years of age. At that period he felt qualified to enter the active duties of the school room as a teacher, and for the next six years he was found in the school room in the winter and during the summer in the activities of the farm, and in further enriching his mind for the profession of teaching. He later entered the Ohio State Normal University, at Ada, and in 1874 completed the course, being a member of the first graduating class of that institution. His first work in the profession after graduation was undertaken in Grant, Logan county, Ohio, where he organized the public schools of the village and was superintendent for two years. Not satisfied with his equipment, Professor Zeller, entered Mount Union College, where he completed the philosophical course, and was given the degree of Ph. B. In

passing it is worthy of note to remark here that this college in 1885 conferred on him the degree of Ph. M.; in 1891 he began a political science course at Ann Arbor for the degree of Ph. D., but not being able to complete that course since their rules required a year's residence at the school, Professor Zeller finished the course at Findlay College, and received from this institution in 1892 the degree of Ph. D. After receiving his degree from Mount Union College in 1876, Professor Zeller prosecuted his studies still further at the Ohio Normal University, where he took up the study of languages, also acting as a tutor in the university.

It was in the summer of 1877 that the first election of Professor Zeller as superintendent of the public schools of Findlay occurred. He entered upon the work with enthusiasm, and it was but a very brief period until the public schools of Findlay began to be noted over the state as being peculiarly excellent, and this reputation has since clung to the school. When Professor Zeller took charge of the Findlay schools, the population of Findlay was only a little over four thousand inhabitants, and there was a corps of sixteen teachers, with fifteen schools, all contained in three buildings. To-day there are eighty-two teachers connected with the schools, fourteen buildings and seventy-four rooms exclusive of the magnificent high school building, which has a faculty of eight teachers. All of these buildings are of the most substantial nature, being built of brick, and furnished with every kind of apparatus that is necessary for the conduct of a modern up-to-date school. The value of the three buildings when Professor Zeller took charge was but $45,000. The figures which cover the valuation to-day are $300,000. All this advance has been made under the efficient administration of Professor Zeller. During these years the city has grown from a village of four thousand inhabitants to a city of twenty thousand, and the number of school children has increased from eight hundred to about four thousand. The one thing, however, which among others is probably the greatest monument to the labor and zeal of Professor Zeller is the superb high school building finished in 1901, at a cost of about $65,000. This building is one of the best in the United States, being equipped with every convenience and necessity from a sanitary standpoint, and stands as a monument to the public spirit of the citizens of Findlay. It contains besides all the modern conveniences for the health and comfort of the three hundred and fifty high school pupils a handsome auditorium with a seating capacity of one thousand, which is not only used by the pupils for assembly purposes, but brings an annual income of $600 a year as a place for the holding of public entertainments. This money is set aside for replenishing the high school library and for the decoration of the rooms. The heating

and the ventilation plant is of the most perfect construction, maintaining the temperature of the rooms and halls automatically.

In political belief Professor Zeller adheres to the party of Lincoln and Garfield, and has never been backward about taking part in its public work. He has acted as a delegate from Hancock county to three of the state conventions, and was at the last election the nominee on the Republican ticket as a member of the state school commission. As stated in the first part of this review, Professor Zeller is exceedingly active in matters pertaining to his profession. He is ever alert to the organization of associations for the improvement of teachers. He was instrumental in the organization years ago of the Ohio Teachers' Association, of which organization he has several times served on the executive committee, and has twice been elected president. For the past ten years he has been a member of the legislative committee of the Ohio State Teachers Association, and has also served on the executive committee of this association, and has been president of the section devoted to superintendency. In institute work Professor Zeller is well known all over the state, having conducted institutes in thirty-four different counties. In 1881 he was granted a state life certificate to teach in the schools of Ohio. The fact that our subject began his school work in the country schools of the county and at the early age of seventeen, and then advanced step by step from the rural schools to the village and town schools, rising to the superintendency in the schools of one of the best cities in the state, puts him in touch with every phase of the school system of the Buckeye state. This knowledge he has gained by continuous experience of thirty years, which experience makes him familiar with the needs and wants of our public schools.

Not only in the school room and school matters does Professor Zeller interest himself, but in any line which is meant for the advancement of the interests of young people. He has for long years been prominently identified with the Young Men's Christian Association movement and is at the present time a member of the board of directors for the city of Findlay. He is an active worker of the Methodist Episcopal church, being at the present time a member of the board of stewards, upon which board he has served for twenty years. He was one of the organizers of the branch of the Methodist denomination on the north side of the city known as the Howard Methodist church, and for years was a member of the board of trustees. He was also active in the erection of what is known as the Heck Methodist church in Findlay. In connection with his duties as superintendent of schools, Professor Zeller has interested himself in the public institutions of the city, giving aid and comfort to every enterprise that meant the advancement of Findlay. He was a mem-

ber of the Findlay Natural Gas Company, the pioneer company of the northern Ohio oil fields, which drilled the first well for gas not only in Ohio but in the whole northwest. This well was drilled in 1886 at Findlay, and the development which has followed that first enterprise is well known to all.

The family life of Professor Zeller has been a happy one; he was joined in marriage in 1874, in Warren county, Ohio, to Julia, daughter of Thomas M. Abell.

GEORGE S. STOUGH.

Among the young and enterprising agriculturists of Hancock county we take pleasure in presenting this name, a gentleman who, in the brief time he has been engaged in that line, has given evidence of superior ability. Mr. George S. Stough resides at the present time in Allen township, where he owns eighty acres of valuable land, which he devotes to general produce. He was born in Cass township in 1867, and is the son of Christian and Maria (Eckert) Stough. He received the ordinary education given by the district school, and that other education which is only acquired by hard knocks in the service of Dame Nature on the farm. The thoroughness of this latter training is responsible for the success he is making. The event which rounded out the life of Mr. Stough to its fulness occurred March 8, 1888. On that day he was joined in marriage to Miss Annie, daughter of John W. and Adaline Hudson, of Allen township. The birth of seven children followed this marriage: Chlove; Collin F.; Gail; Glen; Bessie, deceased; Gladys, deceased; and Ralph. Mrs. Stough was born in Allen township in 1869.

Christian Stough, the father of our immediate subject, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, in 1846, and was a lad of seven years when he, with his parents, George and Ann Stough, removed from Ashland county to Hancock, where they bought a quarter section of land in Allen township. This land was entirely primitive except a small tract of six acres, and the family thus had the hard labor of clearing the farm for cultivation. Young farmers, like our immediate subject, can hardly appreciate the labor by which they have come into their inheritance. Mr. George Stough was an excellent citizen, a member of the Evangelical church, and a man in whom his neighbors placed implicit confidence. He reared a family of ten children, four of whom are living: Daniel, Louise, Henry and Christian. The father died on June 13, 1898, his wife having preceded him five years before. Christian, the son of George, and the father of our subject, is at the present time

one of the substantial farmers in Allen township. His farm contains one hundred and sixty acres, and there is one gas well which produces gas for several homes. His family numbered three sons: George S., Charles J., and Guy. There is no family in Hancock county that stands higher socially or in a business connection than that of the Stoughs. They are honest, upright in their dealings, and are held in high repute by their fellow citizens.

JAMES L. PATTERSON.

The Daily Courier is now one of the institutions of Findlay and a quantity to be reckoned with in the world of politics, business, industrial and social advancement. Its growth in a few years has been phenomenal, as from a feeble and insignificant sheet it has been advanced to a position of influence, due to a large circulation and able management. The gentleman whose name is above given and who has been the chief agent in effecting this, received before entering the newspaper field precisely the training which seems to best fit a man for editorial work. In the first place he received a good general education; secondly he had large experience as a teacher and superintendent of schools, but better than all a thorough course in law at a first-class institution. With this equipment, aided of course by the practical knowledge acquired by actual contact with the world, Mr. Patterson took hold of the newspaper business and showed himself from the first to be well qualified for this exacting vocation.

James L. Patterson, now editor and principal owner of the Daily and Weekly Courier, was born on a farm in Noble county, Ohio, October 23, 1855. He had unusually good educational opportunities, included in which was attendance in the National Normal School at Lebanon, where he was graduated in the class of 1878, and a subsequent course at the Ohio University, in Athens. In 1892 he entered as a student in the famous law school at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was given his degree of Bachelor of Laws with the class that graduated in 1892. At the age of nineteen Mr. Patterson began teaching school in Noble county, Ohio, and continued in this occupation for three years. His next move was to Stockport, Ohio, where he was made superintendent of schools and retained this position two years. From there he went to McConnelsville, county seat of Morgan county, where he again joined the educational corps as principal of the high school, followed later by election as superintendent. He remained in this responsible position during the seven subsequent years, and then began the study of law, which terminated with his graduation at Ann Arbor. He was admitted to the bar in 1891,

previous to his graduation, but shortly after the latter event he made a move which diverted him from the field of law to that of journalism. Mr. Patterson's first venture in that direction was the purchase of the Akron (Ohio) Times, which he effected shortly after leaving Ann Arbor. It was a Democratic weekly paper, which, after retaining about one year, he disposed of to seek a better opening. Going to Portsmouth, Ohio, he bought the controlling interest in the Times, a weekly Democratic paper published at that place, and in the spring of 1894 added a daily edition, which he continued to manage during the following four years. In 1898 he sold this plant and came to Findlay, where soon afterward he organized the Courier Company, which purchased the material and name of a weekly and daily that had been running for some time, but does not seem to have prospered. This paper at the time of the purchase of the plant had about one hundred and fifty subscribers to the daily edition, which has been increased by the new management to a handsome list of about two thousand five hundred. Mr. Patterson, who owns the principal interest, was made manager and editor by the new company, and it is chiefly to his skill and energy that the flattering success of the enterprise has been brought about.

In 1888 Mr. Patterson was united in marriage with Miss Nettie B., daughter of George Benjaling, of McConnelsville. Aside from business cares he finds some time for fraternal association and holds membership in the Masonic Order and the Knights of Pythias.

ABRAHAM ROETHER.

One of the able and successful agriculturists of Pleasant township, who resides on his own farm and tills it to the best interests of himself and the soil, is Abraham Roether. Mr. Roether was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, on October 15, 1822, and is the son of William and Elizabeth Roether, who were both natives of Pennsylvania and there lived and died, numbered among the highly respected citizens. When Abraham was but six years of age, his parents removed to Lancaster county of the same state, and there the son grew to manhood, educated in the public schools of the neighborhood.

At the age of nineteen our subject came to Wayne county, Ohio, and after making several removals in that state finally settled in Richland county, where his marriage to Mary Steck occurred on March 13, 1851; she was a native of Switzerland and was born on March 7, 1828. To Mr. and Mrs. Roether were born eleven children, eight of whom grew to maturity, and six

of the number are still living: William H.; Milinda A.; Rebecca J.; Mary E.; Samuel W.; and Reuben, who is postmaster at McComb.

For nineteen years of his life Mr. Roether was a shoemaker, having learned the trade when a boy. In 1858 the family removed to Hancock county, where they located on the present farm in Pleasant township, of which at that time only a few acres were cleared. He first built a log house and in the course of time was enabled to build his present convenient residence. His farm is now in a fine state of cultivation and yields good returns, a sure proof of Mr. Roether's progressive methods.

The family are members of the Evangelical Association, in which Mr. Roether is class-leader and steward. Politically he is a Republican and has always cast his vote in the best interests of his county and state. Now in his old age he has reason to be proud of his long and useful career and he well deserves the esteem of all his acquaintances.

GEORGE McLELLAN REYNOLDS.

The man who works his way to the top in any business is always the man who is best posted and who knows when things are wrong just where to place his finger and what to advise. Certain kinds of work attract certain men, and if the opportunity does not present itself, the man seeks the opportunity.

Mr. George M. Reynolds has all his business life been connected with oil wells, and probably knows more about them than any one connected with him in his work. He was born on a farm in Erie county, Pennsylvania, in 1863, where he lived and was educated until he was seventeen years of age. He then went to the Bradford, Pennsylvania, oil fields and started in the oil business, his first position being as a pumper; he then rose to be a driller, and soon began contracting to put down wells on his own account in other fields in his native state. He continued to work in the Pennsylvania fields up to 1888, when he went to the gas fields near Brandenburg, Kentucky, where he was engaged in sinking gas wells for four years. In 1892 he came to Findley, Ohio, and has been contracting for oil well drilling ever since, having been connected with some of the largest oil enterprises in that vicinity, his judgment being considered sound, owing to his wide experience. Besides his work as contractor he is also a producer on his own account in the Findlay region.

Mr. Reynold's father was George Reynolds, who was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and died in 1886. He was a farmer and owned

and worked a large stone quarry. He married Arminta Wooley, of which union there were born eleven children, of whom six are now living. Two of Mr. Reynold's brothers served in the Civil war: Benjamin F., who was a private in a Pennsylvania regiment of infantry, and who served four years; he died in 1901. The other brother was Clark, who was also a private in a Pennsylvania regiment, and was killed in his first battle, at Fredericksburg. Mr. Reynold's grandfather was Anson Reynolds, a native of Pennsylvania. He was a farmer, and the Reynolds family is of old English stock.

In 1889 Mr. Reynolds married Rose E. Dooley, and they have two children, William D. and Alton McLellan. Mr. Reynolds is a Republican in political faith; he is a chapter Mason and belongs to the order of the Maccabees; he has never affiliated with any religious body.

WILLIAM BRENNER.

The name of William Brenner at the present time is synonymous in the city of Findlay, Ohio, with sound financial standing and executive ability, and in a consideration of his career we find that he has a most admirable record and is certainly deserving of the success he has won. He is Russian born, and his ancestry have been prominent in social and industrial circles in that country for many generations. His father, Alexander Brenner, was a wholesale dealer in linen, flax and grain in the state of Kovina, Russia Poland; he had fifty thousand acres of land and employed one hundred and fifty men to cultivate it. He lived to be nearly one hundred years old, and was prominent in many ways, having the distinction of being a friend of Czar Nicholas I of Russia. His wife was Freda Brenner, the daughter of a distinguished rabbi in Poland, who had been a member of the priesthood for forty-eight years.

William Brenner was born of such worthy parents in the state of Kovina, Russia, on February 11, 1863. He had the advantages of education which European countries usually afford young men of means, and after an extended course in which he studied Hebrew, German, Russian, Polish and Latin, he was graduated in 1882. Shortly after his graduation his father died, and his first experience in a business capacity was as secretary for the mayor of a city of forty thousand inhabitants. At an early age he became confirmed in his dislike for cards and drinking, and the character thus early strengthened has been his mainstay throughout life. A few years later he determined to leave the country to avoid the rigorous

military service which is the bane of the youth of continental countries, and in 1888 he arrived in Castle Garden, New York, having seventeen cents in his pocket. He made his way to Michigan, and for one year was engaged in the scrap iron business. His arrival in Findlay was in 1889, and he made the beginning of his ultimate success by carrying on the scrap iron trade on a small scale, but he was one of the workers who have no conception of failure or cessation of toil, and by 1893 he had earned by his industry and careful business methods fifteen thousand dollars. In 1900 he felt able to enlarge his enterprise and found a rolling mill. He formed a corporation and became its president and general manager, and he is practically owner of the concern. Four hundred men are employed in this large enterprise, and although at the time of this writing the mill is not in operation, owing to same labor difficulties, in a short time work will be resumed.

With such an excellent record to his credit in the business world, it is pleasant to mention that Mr. Brenner was happily married in Toledo, Ohio, to Miss Sarah Sugarman, a daughter of a prominent clothing merchant of that city, and they now have three bright children in their home, Rose, Dora and Alice. Mr. Brenner is a stanch Republican, and about twelve years ago became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; he is also a Maccabee. He has had a varied experience with bankers and business men, and he is known and esteemed as one of the most progressive and honorable citizens of Findlay.

HERBERT V. BEARDSLEY, M. D.

The true measure of success is determined by what one has accomplished, and, as taken in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, there is particular interest attaching to the career of the subject of this review, since he is a native son of the place in which he has passed his active life, and so directed his ability and efforts as to gain recognition as one of the representative citizens in Findlay. He is actively connected with a profession which has close bearing upon the welfare of the community, and which is one of the most important callings to which man can devote his energies—the alleviation of human suffering, and in the line of his profession he has won notable and enviable distinction.

The Doctor was born in Findlay in the year 1859, being a son of the late Daniel Baily Beardsley, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, May 12, 1832, and died in Findlay, Ohio, September 29, 1894. He was a son of Barney and

Anna Beardsley, and was one of the oldest residents of Hancock county, having moved here with his parents in 1834, where he made his home until his death. In his early youth he lived on a farm and worked as a millwright with his father. Always a great student and reader, he obtained the best common school education possible in those early days, and for a number of years taught in this city, but finally began the study of law under the direction of Walker & West, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, being admitted to the bar in 1856. For twenty-five years he served as a justice of the peace of Findlay, and also held a number of other offices. During the war of the Rebellion he was a deputy revenue collector, and was a man in whom the whole community had the most implicit confidence, being known throughout the county as "Honest Dan Beardsley." On the 22d of May, 1856, Mr. Beardsley was married to Jane Hoisington Summers, of Wayne county, Ohio, and they had one son, Dr. H. V. Beardsley, and four daughters, three of whom are living: Mrs. G. W. Ross; Mrs. W. I. Keefir and Mrs. S. T. Tyler. Mr. Beardsley wrote and had published a history of Hancock county, which contained many valuable statistics, and more than two thousand volumes were sold to the old residents of this locality. He was a member of many fraternal orders and was a Master Mason, having always taken great pride in attending the meetings of that order.

Dr. Beardsley, of this review, was reared in the city of Findlay, and after attending the common schools until he had acquired his elementary education he entered Oberlin College, which he attended until the junior year. He also pursued a course in Cornell College, at Ithaca, New York, and then, determining to make the practice of medicine his life work, was graduated in medicine in 1883, in the Cleveland Homeopathic College. He located for the practice of his profession in Ada, Ohio, where he remained for sixteen months, and then came to Findlay, where he opened an office and has since remained, devoting his energies to the constantly increasing demands of his profession, his partonage steadily growing in volume and importance.

In 1886 Dr. Beardsley was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Farrell, a daughter of John Farrell, and she died in 1896, leaving four children, as follows: John D., Frances E., Ruth A. and Geraldine. In 1898 the Doctor was again married, his second union being with Laura B., daughter of William M. Morehead. They have two children, Edith N. and Girard G. Dr. Beardsley is a prominent and popular member of various fraternal orders. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge; the Ancient Order of United Workmen, in which he was grand medical examiner of Ohio; the Tribe of Ben Hur, of which he is now past supreme chief; the Protective Home Circle;

the Knights of the Maccabees; the Woodmen of the World; the American Legion of Honor; and the Home Guards of America. In city affairs he is also prominent, and takes a deep and helpful interest in many measures for its good. For five years he was clerk of the city school board of Findlay, during which time school buildings were erected at a cost of three hundred thousand dollars. He is now the president of the city election board, serving his second term of four years; has four times been a delegate to the Republican state convention, twice to the congressional conventions and twice to the judicial conventions; and is very active in politics, his labors being effective in promoting the growth and insuring the success of his party. In the field of political life and professional activity he has won distinction, and today is numbered among the leading, influential and honored residents of his native city.

ADAM GLECKNER.

The Teutonic race is very generously represented in Hancock county. They are almost without exception good and honorable citizens, hard workers and possessed of the spirit of work. The above worthy representative of the common interests of the county is a native born German, where he first saw the light in the kingdom of Bavaria, June 6, 1846. He resides now in Big Lick township, where he cultivates a holding of one hundred and seventy-seven acres. At the age of eight years the parents of Mr. Gleckner, Peter and Susanna, crossed to this country, the great republic of which they had heard so much. Here they located in Seneca county, Ohio, where they engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1864, when they came to Hancock county. Here Peter Gleckner purchased a small farm which he cultivated to the time of his death, April 28, 1902. The date of the wife's death was May 29, 1897. They had but two children, one being deceased.

Adam Gleckner received his early education in Seneca county, and removed here with his parents at the date above stated. Upon coming to maturity he purchased a small portion of land and at various times has added to this first purchase, reaching the acreage stated in the first part of this paragraph. November 17, 1868, he was joined in marriage to Amanda V. Little, born May 7, 1847, in Big Lick township. This lady died December 28, 1898, having proved an excellent wife to Mr. Gleckner and a loyal mother to her children, of whom she had two, Nora E., now the wife of Edwin L. Shoolroy, and John H. Mr. Gleckner gives his influence to every good work in the community, and does not stint his time in administering the unpaid

offices of the township. He served a period of seven years as trustee, and has been frequently on the school board and as census enumerator. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body he is trustee. The chief pride of Mr. Gleckner is that he has unaided and alone carved out a place for himself in the society of the county, and that he stands now as one of the leading and most wealthy agriculturists in Hancock county. He is an honored and highly respected citizen and his sterling worth and high moral character attract to him a host of friends.

NELSON H. MORRISON.

Nelson H. Morrison, who is well known as one of the prominent agriculturists of Marion township, Hancock county, is a native of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, where in 1847 he was born, and where he received his training and education. He is the son of Alexander and Leah (Lowery) Morrison, also natives of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, who were united in marriage in 1846. Their family numbered two children: Nelson H. and Catherine. Alexander was born in 1823 and was a manufacturer of woolen goods in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, but removed to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1876, where he purchased one hundred acres of land and turned his attention to farming the remainder of his life.

His son, Nelson H., was engaged for a number of years in the woolen business also, but is by trade a harness maker. He now devotes himself to farming and carries on business where his father left off. He was married in 1866 to Miss Mary, daughter of Robert McDowell, and to them were born Emery, Charles, Clarence, Harry and Delia.

FRANK R. CROWELL.

Frank R. Crowell is now identified with commercial interests in Findlay as proprietor of a grocery store. He was born in Sandusky, New York, in 1854, and is a son of Spencer Crowell, whose birth occurred in the Empire state and who died in 1877 at the age of sixty years. Joseph R. Crowell, a brother of our subject, joined the Union army during the Civil war, becoming a private of the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth New York Infantry, in which he served throughout the struggle. He was shot through the lungs at Lookout Mountain, but recovered his injury and died in the year 1891.

To the district school system of his native state, Frank R. Crowell is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He was reared

upon a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York, remaining there until he was twenty-six years of age, during which time he became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He then left home, going to Allegany, New York, and was employed in the oil fields of that locality for seven years, also spending a part of the time in a grocery store. In 1887 he came to Findlay, Ohio, and here began the manufacture of wooden oil tanks, which business he carried on profitably until 1901, when he established his grocery store, in which he has already secured a good patronage, and his trade is constantly increasing.

In 1881 Mr. Crowell was united in marriage to Miss Ellen M. Sparks, and to them have been two children: Josephine M. and Frank M. In his political affiliation Mr. Crowell is a Democrat. In manner he is pleasant and genial, and has won many friends among his patrons as well as among his social acquaintances.

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